



An Economic Times Initiative

presents

EMERGING LEADERS OF SOUTH

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FOREWARD



he southern states of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are not just known for their vibrant landscape and stunning sights but also for their people. There have been several luminaries that have done the country proud with their roots in the South of the country. Whether it is innovators, businessmen, doctors, politicians or actors, the South has typically seen many talents who have not left an indelible mark on India but across the world. With its rich cultural heritage and bent towards art, dance and music, the southern part of India has also made unforgettable contributions to the cultural landscape of the country.

In this issue of Icons of the South, Femina has handpicked and profiled many such gems who are working tirelessly to make a difference. In each profile you will read stories of their determination as they took on challenges to achieve the kind of success they have today. We do hope that when you read these stories, you find inspiration and motivation to embark on your own path of success.

And while these are some names there are many more South Indians who are making their mark and we hope we can tell you more about them in our upcoming issues. For now, we leave you with these success stories that we hope you enjoy reading as much as we enjoyed putting them together.

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EMERGING LEADERS OF SOUTH

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WORLDWIDE MEDIA PVT LTD,

The Times of India Building, Dr DN Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001

Printed at Hira Print Solutions Pvt Ltd

Plot A/313, T.T.C Industrial Area, Near Smith Services, Mahape, Navi Mumbai - 400710

FOREWARD
TAMILNADU
KERALA
KARNATAKA
ANDHRA PRADESH + TELANGANA

THE PIONEERS

AKKAI PADMASHALI
ARUNDHATI NAG
DEEPIKA GOVIND
JYOTI REDDY
KALPANA RAMESH
KUTTI REVATHI
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
NIRUPAMA RAO
PREETHA REDDY
SANDHYA RAJU
SRIDHAR VEMBU
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SWAPNA DUTT CHALASANI

THE EMERGING LEADERS

AJAY PADYAPPAN SETHUPATHYAAR

ANIRUDH BALAJI

ARYA RAJENDRAN

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LITHIKA BHANU

MALAVIKA MOHANAN

MANISHA PRAMOD CHORDIA

MERIN JOSEPH

T. NATARAJAN

NIKHIL KAMATH

SAMEER SETHI

SNEHA MOHANDOSS


SPOORTHY VISHWAS

SUDHA KONGARA

DR. SUMAN CHERUKURI

VARALAKSHMI SARATHKUMAR

TAMIL NADU



The culturally rich state of Tamil Nadu is known for its stunning architecture, art and heritage. It is also the state that has produced some of the most well known faces of the country. M. S. Swaminathan known as the Father of Green Revolution in India who is credited with developing high-yielding varieties of wheat in India is from Tamil Nadu. Indra Nooyi, CEO of Pepsico, Shiv Nadar, founder and chairman of HCL Technologies Limited and the Shiv Nadar Foundation, Venki Ramakrishnan, President of the Royal Society and Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet are some well-known business leaders who are from Tamil Nadu.

A. P. J. Abdul Kalam: Former President of India and India's Missile Man was also from Tamil Nadu. Viswanathan Anand, chess grandmaster and former world chess champion as well as Narain Karthikeyan who is the first Indian formula car racer are from the state. Arunachalam Muruganantham, India's Pad Man who has helped break the taboo around menstruation is also from the state.

With its extensive network of architecturally beautiful temples and also being the home of Bharatnatyam the traditional dance form, Chennai's film industry is also changing the landscape of entertainment in the country.

KERALA



G

od's own country Kerala is known for its brilliant natural vistas that is fueled by a sensitive and eco friendly tourism campaign. However, the state is also home to many people who are both well-known across the world. Sportspersons like Anju George, the only Indian to win a medal at the World Athletics Championships, P. T. Usha, Shiny Wilson and spiritual leaders like Adi Sankara who propounded the doctrine of Advaita (non-duality), Fr. Chavara Kuriakose, a Christian saint and Swami Chinmayananda Founder of the Chinmaya Mission are all from Kerala. Some of the well-known freedom fighters from Kerala include V.K. Krishna Menon, Vakkom Majeed, Sir

Chettur Sankaran Nair and K. Kelappan who was known as 'Kerala Gandhi'. The state is also home to literary stalwarts like Akkitham Achuthan Namboodiri who won the Kendra Sahitya Academy Award for Malayalam in 1973 and Arundhati Roy who won the Booker Prize in 1997 for her book 'The God of Small Things' set in Kerala.

With its endless network of backwaters, scrumptious cuisine and endlessly natural vistas, the state of Kerala is as beautiful as a picture postcard. The state not just ranks the highest in India in terms of literacy but has also been a game changer as far as tourism is concerned.

KARNATAKA



The Kannada speaking state of Karnataka has been at the centerstage of some of the most famous personalities of the country. From stalwarts like a 12th century philosopher Basavanna to Akka Mahadevi, a prominent figure of the Veerashaiva Bhakti movement to Madhvacharya, the chief proponent of the Dvaita school of Hindu philosophy the state has seen many spiritual leaders.

Famous musicians like Purandara Dasa and Kanaka Dasa, and scientists like C. V. Raman and Sir M. Visvesvaraya as well as Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army are all from Karnataka. Girish Karnad, M.S.

Satyu, Puttanna Kanagal, Dr. Rajkumar, Rajnikant and even literary stalwart R.K. Narayan and his brother the legendary cartoonist R.K. Laxman is from the state. Narayana Murthy from Infosys and Azim H Premji from Wipro are residents of Bengaluru, the capital city. Sportspersons like Prakash Padukone, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid, Javagal Srinath, B.S. Chandrashekar, E.A.S. Prasanna, Mahesh Bhupathi and Pankaj Advani are also from the state. It also helps that the state of Karnataka has a vibrant culture and technology that goes hand in hand that has fostered and encouraged talents across sectors. The landscape of the state has ensured that these talents have got the push they needed to make a mark on the national and international arena.

ANDHRA PRADESH & TELANGANA



K

nown for its eclectic and fiery cuisine, the Telugu speaking states

of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, these states have had some notable names that have made their states proud. Alluri Sitarama Raju, a revolutionary involved in the Indian independence movement, freedom fighter Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy and Pingali Venkayya who designed the Indian flag are all from Andhra Pradesh. The Telugu film industry is one that sees the highest rate of success across the country and has seen some stalwarts like N.T. Rama Rao and Akkineni Nageshwar Rao. Former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was also from the state. Pallela Gopichand, who

has coached both Saina Nehwal and P.V. Sindhu is also from this region.

With the split in the states, there has been an enhanced focus on tourism as well and each of the states are doing their bit to ensure that the beauty of their landscapes is brought to the forefront. About 62 people from these states made it to the recent IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020 that listed people with a wealth exceeding Rs 1000 crore. Known for its beautiful coastline and spiritual tourism belt (with places like Tirupati and Mantralaya) the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have people who are warm and welcoming.

THE PIONEERS





ACTIVIST



TRANSGENDER FLAGBEARER

AKKAI PADMASHALI

Transgender Activist



Being transgender has not deterred Akkai Padmashali who has fought many battles as she is doing her bit for the third gender. The first transwoman in the country to officially adopt a child, Karnataka's first transgender person to have registered her marriage in 2018 and someone who has many firsts to her credit Akkai Padmashali has had a challenging journey to reach where she is today. Born as a boy, Jagadeesh to a homemaker mother and father in Airforce, she had a strange childhood, confused about her identity and no empathy from anyone. She was only 12 when she attempted suicide not once but twice. When she was 16, she happened to meet a few transgenders in a park and unfortunately became a sex worker for four years. While those were dark years, she realised that there were many others like her who needed to be helped. Joining an NGO that worked with sexual minorities called Sangama she understood how policy makers must change their stance towards the community. Later she started her organisation 'Ondede' that works

for children, women and sexual minorities. They also work on gender sensitisation workshops for cops and journalists and upskilling for underprivileged LGBTQ+ community members.

Married to her long-time partner Vasudev (after becoming the first transgender couple to register their marriage), the couple have adopted a boy in 2019 and she admits she is thrilled to be a mother. Last year she announced her decision to join politics with the Indian National Congress where she hopes she can raise her voice for the community.

She received Karnataka's second highest civilian honour the Rajyotsava Prashasti in 2015 and was also the first trans woman to be invited to the townhall for selected invitees by former US president Barack Obama in New Delhi in 2017.

For someone who is clear she is a woman, she hopes that the striking down of Section 377 will help the community. While she has been the face of LGBTQ+ community in India, she hopes that the right to choose gender and sexual orientation is never as hard for anyone else as it was for her.



**SHE WAS THE FIRST
TRANS WOMAN TO
BE INVITED TO THE
TOWNHALL FOR
SELECTED INVITEES
BY FORMER US
PRESIDENT BARACK
OBAMA IN NEW
DELHI IN 2017.**



THEATRE



SHOW TIME

ARUNDATHI NAG

Theatre and Film Actress



Arundhati Nag is a theatre professional who has changed the face of the theatre scene in Bangalore through her space Rangashankara. With an experience of many decades, Arundathi Nag has worked in Gujarati, Marathi, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam and English theatre. She was married to late Kannada actor and director Shankar Nag and has acted in several plays. Nag is the founder and the Managing Trustee of Sanket Trust that was started in 1992, and also runs Ranga Shankara, that has changed Bangalore's cultural calendar. She built Ranga Shankara in October 2004 as a space for quality theatre in Bangalore and was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2010. Ranga Shankara has seen over 6000 performances in the last 15 years and is today a premier theatre space in the country.

Nag started doing theatre in school days in Mumbai and moved to Bangalore after she met Shankar Nag who directed the famous television

series *Malgudi Days* in 1987.

Nag has had an impressive run at the movies as well that has seen her win the 'Citizen Extraordinaire' Award by The Rotary Club of Bangalore in 2006 as well as the Karnataka Government's Best Supporting Actress award in 2005.

She also has the Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival annually which went digital last year in the backdrop of the COVID-19 crisis. This is a festival that also awards a young theatre maker who embodies service to the art and craft of theatre with the Shankar Nag Award. The latest edition that took place in October last year had screenings, presentations, installations and some ancillary events at the Ranga Shankara foyer.

A veteran theatre artiste, Nag admits that this is the real thing and says that the actor is the king in theatre. Little wonder then that her role as Vidya Balan's mother in the Hindi movie *Paa* also saw her win the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actress.



**RANGA
SHANKARA BUILT
BY ARUNDHATI
NAG HAS SEEN
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THEATRE SPACE
IN THE COUNTRY.**



FASHION



FASHION WITH A CAUSE

DEEPIKA GOVIND

Fashion Designer



As a fashion designer whose ethos has been about making ecological choices, Deepika Govind merges design with ethics. A graduate from NIFT, Deepika Govind's clothes have clean lines and structures silhouettes and above all an attention to detail that makes her garments unique. Based in Bangalore, her prêt and couture collection are original, innovative, feisty and spirited. She launched her label in 1995 and her studio in 2002.

Govind works with new fabrics every year and ensures that she blends traditional with the modern to create unique stories. Her work with the weavers and craftsmen has seen her work on fabrics like ikat, kalamkari as well as Khadi. She has also worked extensively on eri silk known as the ahimsa silk where the cocoon is open ended as the worm flies out once the cocoon is made.

Her fashion sensibility strikes a balance between

Eastern crafting and Western construction and hence have a timeless appeal about them. She is inspired by India and its heritage which she says is a cultural goldmine. From the markets of Varanasi to the woven textiles of Bhagalpur, from the tie-dye technique to ikat weaves of Orissa, her clothes have a distinctive element of India. She is also motivated by the handcrafted textiles of Bhuj, handspun khadi and the colour filled deserts of Rajasthan.

She is also a vocal advocate of organic and natural fibers and focuses on several pure fabric blends and she works very closely with master weavers on the fabrics she needs for her designs.

She also retails her clothes and the range of her clothes include tunics, tops, dresses, hand woven stoles, saris, shawls and more. For someone who is a bundle of creative energy, Govind ensures that her clothes always have a personal touch.

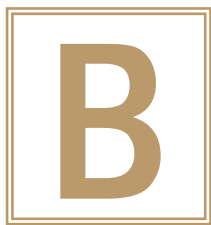


**HER FASHION
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SILK TALES

JYOTI REDDY

Founder, Ereena and promoter of eri silk



Based in Hyderabad, Jyoti Reddy always had a curious interest in anything creative, a keen eye for textiles, persistence and a desire to make a difference. It was exactly these traits that drove her to pioneer industrial-scale production of eri silk in Assam, with a team of textile technologists led by late Dilip Barooah.

Eri silk also known as ahimsa silk, is called as such as the cocoon does not have the silkworm inside and being empty is cruelty free. The team set up the first and only integrated dedicated eri silk spun factory, Fabric Plus Private Limited, with a focus on enhancing rural livelihoods and developing a transparent, sustainable and consistent eri silk supply chain. This innovative yarn factory achieved over an 8-fold increase in productivity, delivering 25 yards of fabric from one kilogram of yarn and consistent quality.

Reddy took eri from a domestic/cottage industry in Northeast of India to an international status, under her label Ereena and successfully increased awareness, enhancing perception of the relatively unknown eri,

through creative design, technology and production inputs.

Jyoti has relentlessly experimented on handlooms and power looms to create unique qualities in eri and achieved national and international recognition in the process. Currently she is developing eri knit yarns and eri blended yarns. Her passion is to continuously research and experiment in order to develop both sustainable and ecologically conscious solutions. Her work has led to the Ereena natural dye fabric being selected as an exhibit at the 'Sustainable Thinking Exhibition' at the Salvatore Ferragamo Museum Florence in 2019-2021 and the fabric has been selected by the French luxury company, Louis Vuitton, Moët & Hennessy (LVMH) to be part of an internal design tool library for access by designers of its brands in 2019.

Reddy was also invited under the 'Innovation' category to exhibit her products at the reputed International Folk Art Market Santa Fe in 2018 & 2019. As a champion for the cause of vegan silk, Reddy is surely leading by example.



JYOTI REDDY TOOK
ERI FROM A COTTAGE
INDUSTRY IN NORTHEAST
OF INDIA TO AN
INTERNATIONAL STATUS,
UNDER HER LABEL EREENA
AND SUCCESSFULLY
INCREASED AWARENESS

WATER WISE

KALPANA RAMESH

Water warrior and Environmentalist



Kalpana Ramesh an environmentalist working on water conservation and restoration is making sure the elixir of life gets the respect it deserves.

While Kalpana Ramesh is a Hyderabad based architect and interior designer by profession, she is really a waterpreneur, who has taken up the mantle of doing her bit to spread awareness of rainwater harvesting and environmental conservation. As the co-founder of Kaava Design Studio, she has consciously chosen to work on sustainable design projects as well as terrace gardens.

A core member of SANE, Society for Advancement of Human Endeavors, an NGO that works on social impact projects in Hyderabad, she leads water projects to create a collective impact on the environment. She turned a water conservation champion by building a sustainable tanker free home and leading initiatives like Save 10K bores, 'Live the Lakes' and Blue Hyderabad. These initiatives aimed at creating

awareness and increasing civic moral responsibility towards protecting water, its sources and restoring them to their former glory. In 2020, she channeled her concerns regarding water depletion and passion towards sustainability to start a social enterprise called *The Rainwater Project* that works in the field of rainwater harvesting. They provide complete water solutions and consultancy services regarding various rainwater harvesting models, storage tanks and recharging pits for houses, industrial spaces, rejuvenation of lakes; leading themselves towards self-sustainability.

An advocate of water conservation, she also conducts workshops for children whom she believes have many new ideas to further the cause. In fact, when she took over the Prime Minister's Twitter handle last year on International Women's Day, her message to all was to become a "water warrior." A champion of water, Ramesh's efforts are a small step but one that is in the right direction.



**WHEN SHE TOOK
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LITERATURE



THE RIGHT WORD

KUTTI REVATHI

Lyricist, Poet, Activist, Doctor



he may be controversy's favourite child but Dr. S. Revathi aka Kutti Revathi knows that the pen is mightier than the sword. A poetry book author and editor of the first Tamil feminist magazine Panikkudam, Kutti Revathi is also a doctor as she has a bachelor's degree in Siddha medicine and surgery. She started writing in 1999 and often uses her words as a voice and representation of women.

Naturally, this has caused her to be embroiled in controversies, but she admits that instead of bogging her down, it has given her vision, insight and strength to continue her career as poet. She in fact says her passion for poem gets intensified as she faces controversies as it helps her go deeper into feminism, exploring imageries, constructing feminist politics and be true to her ideals.

Currently a Poet, Film Maker, Lyricist and Script Writer at OHO Productions, she has published over fifteen books. For someone who is a vocal supporter

of women's rights especially of marginalized communities, she believes that a powerful literary format is the best way to express her thoughts and poetry makes her powerful.

She has also written lyrics for several songs including A. R. Rahman's recent musical 99 Songs. She admits that reading continuously, writing nonstop and engaging herself in poetry, lyrics, scripts and directing documentaries help her explore her creative energies and push her boundaries too.

She has also directed one movie Siragu and looking ahead she wants to direct more movies as it has always been both her dream and aspiration from when she was 20 years old. She believes that visual images that women create will make a greater impact in the world. She wants to change the narrative of violence on screen by creating powerful images and visual metaphors that can capture and project a new image of women on screen.

அறிமுகம் இறான்



HER PASSION
FOR POEM GETS
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AS SHE FACES
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AND BE TRUE TO
HER IDEALS.





POLITICS



MONEY MATTERS

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

Finance Minister



Minister of Finance and Corporate

Affairs in the Union Government, Nirmala Sitharaman is leading women power by example.

While most people would have seen her on television, especially reading out the long budget speeches, Nirmala Sitharaman has been a member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament since 2014. Before serving as the current Finance Minister of India, she worked in the Defense Ministry of India. She is the second female and the first full-time Finance Minister as well as India's second female Defense Minister. Her earlier stints have included work as the Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs under the Ministry of Finance and she has also been the national spokesperson for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Born in a middle-class family in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, Sitharaman would travel frequently as her father was in a transferable job. After completing her bachelors' from Seethalakshmi Ramasamy College, Tiruchirappalli and masters from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, along with an M. Phil from JNU, she

worked as an assistant in the Agricultural Engineers Association in the United Kingdom. She has also worked as a Senior Manager for PWC and then at the BBC World Service for a brief time. One of the founding directors of Pranava, a school in Hyderabad, she has served as a member of the National Commission for Women.

As a person, Sitharaman believes in choosing the middle path and maintaining a balance so that things are under control. She also headed the COVID-19 Economic Response Task Force and announced stimulus packages to the tune of thousands of crores for economic revival. Known to speak her mind, she is also a hard task master who can hold her ground in the traditional male dominated Ministry. As a shoutout to women empowerment, she was recorded ticking off an aide who tried to force a woman journalist to restrict her query to only one question, while male journalists were not stopped from asking multiple questions. The Forbes list of 100 most powerful women also ranked her at 41 in 2020. Clearly, a small reflection of her lofty achievements.



**SHE HEADED THE
COVID-19 ECONOMIC
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STIMULUS PACKAGES
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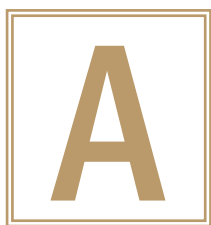
BUREAUCRAT



AMBASSADOR OF SUCCESS

NIRUPAMA MENON RAO

Retired Diplomat



n Indian Ambassador, Nirupama

Menon Rao is a diplomat who has several firsts to her credit in her illustrious career. Nirupama Menon Rao an Indian Foreign Service officer was born in Kerala and joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1973. She worked for four decades in her role as a diplomat and is India's first woman spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs. She is also the first woman high commissioner from India to Sri Lanka and the first Indian woman ambassador to the People's Republic of China.

Post her retirement she has been appointed as Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellow at the India Initiative at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. With an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Pondicherry University, she is currently working on a book on India's China relationship, called 'Telling it on the Mountain: India and China, 1949-1962.'

In 2012, she was named in the Global List of the 100

Most Influential Women on Twitter by foreignpolicy.com. Post her retirement, Rao is also following her passion for music. Her first commercial album, 'Peace is My Dream', was released in December 2017 by the Universal Music Group (India) label. She has also written 'Rain Rising', book of poems, published by Rupa & Co. in 2004. In 2018, along with her husband Sudhakar she set up a Bangalore-based Trust called The South Asian Symphony Foundation. She has also received the Fellowship of Peace Award conferred by the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Center, Washington D.C. in 2018.

With her vast experience she holds several important positions including being a member of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore as well as being on the Board of Governors of the Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi among others.



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HEALTH IS WEALTH

DR. PREETHA REDDY

Vice-Chairperson of Apollo Hospitals Group



Vice-Chairperson of Apollo Hospitals Group, Dr. Preetha Reddy counted among Asia's leading healthcare providers is charting new trajectories in healthcare and frontline services.

In an Instagram post in December 2020, Dr. Preetha Reddy put an appreciation post for her team of doctors who helped a seven-year-old girl Joyesmita Chando walk again. Diagnosed with a rare medical condition in children called Discoid Lateral Meniscus Tear, she needed a corrective procedure. "Eternally grateful for the opportunity to touch lives and spread hope" she ended that post.

The eldest daughter of the founder of Apollo Hospitals, Dr. Preetha Reddy joined Apollo Hospitals as joint managing director in 1989 and was then promoted as managing director. She received Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) by The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University in recognition of her extraordinary contribution towards betterment of India's healthcare sector. A firm believer in providing quality healthcare services and achieving high standards in patient

satisfaction, she also works closely with the organization's 9000 clinicians who constantly try to improve all the services provided by the clinics across India.

That apart, Dr. Reddy is also the Managing Trustee of the Apollo Hospitals Educational Trust and one of the founding members of the Quality Council of India. In 2012, she was elected as the independent director of applied science company, Medtronic. She and her guidance teams from Apollo Hospitals have worked with the Government of India to introduce the NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers) accreditation. She is also credited with establishing the NATHEALTH – Healthcare Federation of India in 2013 and she is its current president.

A committed social activist, she is actively associated with social projects such as SACHi (Save a Child's Heart Initiative) that caters to treating underprivileged children with chronic heart diseases. And her numerous well-deserving awards ranging from lifestyle icon to woman leader notwithstanding, she continues to lead by example.



A FIRM BELIEVER IN PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTHCARE, SHE ALSO WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE ORGANIZATION'S 9000 CLINICIANS WHO CONSTANTLY TRY TO IMPROVE ALL THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CLINICS ACROSS INDIA.





ARTIST



KUCHIPUDI CUES

SANDHYA RAJU

Kuchipudi Dancer & Actress



dancer par excellence, Sandhya Raju is now taking her journey as an actress to the next level in her film that is about dance. Born to P.R. Venketrama Raja, Chairman of Ramco Group, Sandhya Raju's father-in-law, Byrraju Ramalinga Raju is the founder of Satyam Computers Services Ltd. Having trained in the kuchipudi dance form under Padma Bhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam, she is now all set to debut on the big screen with her film Natyam. Apart from acting, she has worked as a production designer, stylist, choreographer and producer in this Telugu film directed by Revanth Korukonda.

Raju did her schooling in Chennai and graduated from Osmania University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and started training as a Kuchipudi dancer when she was just nine years old. All her dance performances are on YouTube and she is the highest viewed Kuchipudi performer on the platform. She has performed across the world in Asia, Europe, USA and South Africa apart from India.

Her transition from dancing to acting has been something of a natural progression and she has

admitted that the discipline of dance has helped her emotive. In the movie she plays Sitara, a classical dancer and the focus of the story is on the relationship between the dance teacher and student and the latter's desire to be a dancer.

Interestingly, she was earlier part of a short film Natyam that is now a full-scale movie. Apart from working as the Managing Director of Sandhya Spinning Mills, she also started her dance school Nishrinkala Dance Academy. Having done a stint as the Chairperson of the Young FICCI Ladies Organisation she has felt that women lack financial independence and admits that this has liberated her and made her strong professionally.

Despite being born into a business family, Raju has always been encouraged to be her own person and she credits her husband, Rama Raju for encouraging her to pursue her dreams. While she spent her lockdown days choreographing new Kuchipudi pieces, she admits that she does not know what the future holds as she believes that is best left to the audience.



HER TRANSITION
FROM DANCING
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AND SHE HAS
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ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

SRIDHAR VEMBU

Founder and CEO, Zoho Corporation



ounder and CEO, Zoho Corporation,

Sridhar Vembu is not just one of India's leading business moguls but is also listed by Forbes among the richest Indians.

Money however is not what is on his mind. For someone who had humble beginnings, Vembu was born in 1968 to a family of farmers hailing from Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu. He earned his bachelor's degree from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras in 1989 and followed it up with MS and PhD degrees from Princeton University in New Jersey.

Starting his career as a wireless engineer at Qualcomm in San Diego, California, it was in 1996, that Vembu joined hands with three of his friends and two of his brothers to found a software development house for network equipment providers called AdventNet, renamed as Zoho Corporation in 2009. Zoho incidentally works on providing SaaS support to customer relationship management services. The company provides a single cloud platform with all the required applications to run a business entirely from the cloud. After living in the Bay Area in California until 2019,

Vembu decided to move to a village in Tenkasi district in Tamil Nadu. The planned move came years after he bought 4 acres of land in one of the villages, Mathalamparai way back in 2011 to start the India operations of his company.

With a vision to empower rural villages and bring Silicon Valley to the villages, he has also opened an office in Renigunta in Andhra Pradesh. For someone who has returned to his roots, he enjoys the village life and its associated simplicity.

He established Zoho Schools in 2004 to provide vocational training to software developers belonging from rural India. Almost 20 percent of Zoho's employees are not certified engineers but have vocational education from Zoho Schools. In 2020, Vembu also invested in a 'rural school startup' focusing on free primary education for children belonging from families with a weak economic background.

He has also been appointed to the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) of India in 2021 and in 2021, he also deservedly received the Padma Shri award, India's fourth highest civilian award.



HE ESTABLISHED ZOHOSCHOOLS IN 2004 TO PROVIDE VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS BELONGING FROM RURAL INDIA.



VACCINE WOMAN

SUCHITRA ELLA

Joint Managing Director, Bharat Biotech



With all the attention on India's vaccine for COVID-19, Covaxin, co-founder Suchitra Ella is ensuring that the vaccine reaches

Her Twitter profile reads "CoFounder & JMD

BharatBiotech : 1st gen entrepreneur : art , culture & music patroniser : organ donor : nature & societal enabler : spiritual seeker. Meet Suchitra Ella who is in the spotlight even as her company Bharat Biotech is rolling out the *Made in India* Covaxin for COVID-19. She co-founded Bharat Biotech in 1996 with her husband Dr. Krishna Ella. Ella is a BA in Economics and Social Sciences from the University of Madras and a diploma in business development from UWCU, Madison, diploma in real estate management from University of South Carolina and post-graduate diploma in patent law from NALSAR, Hyderabad.

After living in the United States, the couple returned to India to set up Bharat Biotech in Hyderabad and worked for three years before their first product was launched. Their company is the first to manufacture mercury-free vaccines for Hepatitis-B.

At Bharat Biotech she oversees a wide range of

operations and puts her experiences in customer operations, finance, marketing and business development to good use. She also spearheads the CSR initiatives of the company.

For someone who was raised by her parents to be independent, she has brought up her two children while managing to work and support the family when her husband was pursuing his Ph.D in the United States.

However, it is Covaxin India's first indigenous vaccine to fight COVID-19 that has put the spotlight on her.

The recent reports in Nature Communications and The Lancet have given a thumbs up to the vaccine and the company has recently signed an agreement for the supply of 20 million doses to Brazil.

Apart from being the Chairperson of CII Indian Women Network, she is on the boards of ISB Well Wisher's Trust and United Way Hyderabad, that works for social empowerment in local communities.

Little wonder then that she has been awarded with titles like South Indian Business Achievers Award 2016, Zee TV Best Women Entrepreneur Award and SAARC Women Entrepreneur Award among many others.



**COVAXIN INDIA'S
FIRST INDIGENOUS
VACCINE TO FIGHT
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HER AND BHARAT
BIOTECH.**





ACTIVIST



ANTI-TRAFFICKING CRUSADER

SUNITHA KRISHNAN

Social activist, co-founder of Prajwala



woman who has beaten odds to end sex slavery globally through her organization, Prajwala, Sunitha Krishnan's work is helping save many women.

When she was only 15 years old, Sunitha Krishnan was gang raped by eight men and beaten so badly that she became partially deaf in one ear. The reason the men had for their heinous crime was that her neo-literacy campaign for the Dalit community was treading into a man's world.

However instead of cowering down, Krishnan decided to take it head long and went on to complete her bachelor's degree in environmental sciences from St. Joseph's College in Bangalore and her MSW (medical & psychiatric) from Roshni Nilaya in Mangalore.

For someone who was always empathetic, social work was always ingrained in her psyche from her childhood days. Post her studies, she moved to Hyderabad to join PIN as the Coordinator and was involved in the housing problems of slum dwellers. In 1996, when sex workers were evacuated and left homeless, she started her NGO Prajwala (meaning eternal fire) with a missionary Brother Jose Vetticatil.

Her organisation has helped thousands of women and children and has worked tirelessly to prevent, rescue and rehabilitate sex workers by giving them alternate careers. She has actively worked to prevent human trafficking and has rescued women and children from sex slavery.

An orator who speaks across the world raising awareness of trafficking and sensitise communities about human trafficking. A TED speaker, she has also appeared on the talk show *Satyamev Jayate* as well as on *Kaun Banega Crorepati's* Karamvir special episode.

To drive her point, she has made several documentary films and feature films as well as written many books as well. However, she has not just been physically assaulted but also threatened many times, but she has always continued to do her good work.

Taking up the cause of sexual exploitation in its face is not easy and Krishnan is a shining example of what a woman can do. Little wonder then that apart from the Padma Shri she has been awarded 'Real Hero', Stree Shakti Puraskar and the Perdita Huston Human Rights Award among others.



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MARINE CONSERVATOR

DR. SUPRAJA DHARINI

Conservationist



Working tirelessly to save turtles, Dr. Supraja Dharini is taking the lead on conservation of this threatened marine species.

For someone who has a PhD in Indian Philosophy, Dr Supraja has an art establishment called Kalakruti in Chennai. However today she is known as a sea turtles conservator and environmental educator. And it is her work as the founder of TREE Foundation, that has seen her receive an award for '50 People Changing the World' by the prestigious Explorers Club.

Her journey with the Olive Ridley Turtles started in 2001 when she was taking her usual morning walk on Chennai's Neelankarai beach. She came across a dead turtle that was injured by sharp nets. Shocked, she found out more and concluded that it was important to first educate the fisherfolk.

She involved Dr Karthik Shanker of Wildlife SOS to explain to the fishermen how turtles created areas for fish breeding. She then started the Sea Turtle Protection Force involving youth from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa that eventually made way for the TREE (Trust for Environment, Education,

Conservation and Community development) Foundation in October 2002.

Today the community has 222 fishing village communities and 363 members who are working in conserving the sea turtles. The team essentially ensures that they save the eggs of the turtle and help the hatch reach the ocean safely. Each state has a different challenge when it comes to these little ones from sloth bears, jackals and wild boars that hunt them.

Dharini works closely with the forest departments of the three states, the Indian Coast Guard and the Marine Police to ensure that the conservation efforts are successful. The good work done by the team ensured that the forest department gave them permission to set up hatcheries.

Turtles are often called the gardeners of the sea as they help sea plants grow quickly and have peculiar habits as they usually come back to lay eggs in the same spot as they were born. Hence conservation activities like these are much needed even as the world battles the pandemic.



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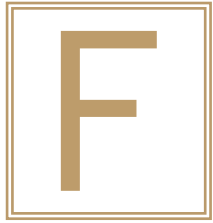




CHARTERING HER TRAJECTORY

SWAPNA DUTT CHALASANI

Movie Producer



famously called the *Queen of Television*, Swapna Dutt Chalasani is the name behind award winning movies like *Mahanati* and a host of television shows too.

Growing up as the daughter of a successful Indian film and television content producer C. Ashwini Dutt who is also a well-known Indian film producer and the founder of 50-year-old *Vyjayanthi Movies*, films and television was in the genes of Swapna Dutt Chalasani. Armed with an MBA from Ohio University, she along with her sister Priyanka Dutt, has tirelessly worked on a path that was traditionally thought to be male centric. For someone who was always interested in the behind the camera aspect of movies, Chalasani was in her early 20s, when Indian television was riding a new heightened wave of entertainment. She began her career in film making at a very early age, as an associate producer for the movie *Azad* in 2000. Soon after her first project she co-produced many movies with her father under the banner of *Vyjayanthi Movies*.

In 2014 Swapna and her sister Priyanka, re-launched their production house Swapna Cinema and co-produced the Telugu movie *Yevade Subramanyam*. She has produced several stellar Telugu serials like *Sa Ri Ga Ma Pa*, *Jagadam*, *Gata Jhanma Rahasyam* and *Jhummandi Naadam*, she continues to dominate the content scene. In fact, she is also working on producing quality OTT content. While the big budget movies are produced under the *Vyjayanthi Movies* banner, the other content is produced under *Swapna Cinema*. The sister-duo also co-produced the biggest and most prestigious films of Tollywood in recent times including the National Award-winning film *Mahanati*, the movie went ahead to win several accolades nationally and internationally.

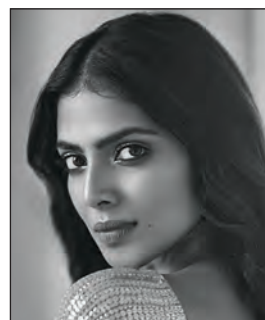
Chalasani has a series of big budget line-ups of movies and television content in the coming years and she is currently working with some of the biggest and well-known celebrities from Bollywood and Southern industry for her films, television and OTT productions.



“

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THE EMERGING LEADERS





PHILANTHROPY



MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT

AJAY PADYAPPAN SETHUPATHYAAR

Founder, Ajay Sethupathyaar Trust



With a vision to create a country that is free from poverty, Ajay Padyappan Sethupathyaar is working with a group of volunteers to ensure he can

make a difference to society. "I have been blessed to be a descendent of the Sethupathyaar Jameen family, known for their contributions to societal growth." Ajay completed his under graduation in computer science from Loyola College and did his Masters' in Business Administration. After his studies, he went on to pursue his entrepreneurial dreams and dabbled in varied businesses like food processing, infrastructure and venture capitalism.

The Ajay Sethupathyaar Trust, he admits, reflects him, his values, and what his family stands for. "We have always believed in serving people to our fullest potential and Ajay Sethupathyaar Trust is helping us to carry out our philanthropic activities in an organized manner. From my perspective, it is more than just Trust. It is a movement with a vision to have a positive impact on as many lives as possible."

To help people in need, they have formed 'Mission Ambai', an initiative that encompasses rural development, care for the physically challenged,

job opportunities, women empowerment, and most importantly, education to the less privileged. They are currently giving free education at coaching centers and free fuel for auto drivers for specific days in the month. Ajay Sethupathyaar Trust is an extension of what they have been doing for ages but in an organized way to reach more people. They also provide health insurance to the needy up to Rs. 2 lakhs for their medical expenses and have initiated a scheme to help youth develop employable skills.

Currently the trust helps anywhere between 50,000 and 1 lakh people every month through their initiatives. Ajay is inspired by corporate leaders of Tata Motors, Reliance Industries and Aditya Birla. "My entrepreneurial spirit was always within me, but these corporate giants influenced me through the journey of business success."

The pandemic he admits was a moment of realization. "At the beginning of the pandemic, we helped feed the helpless people in Ambasamudram and then expanded into Tamil Nadu. Front line workers, medical staff and police personnel were given essentials like water, masks and snacks." Ajay however says, this is just the beginning, and there is more to come.



TRA
TECHN



**MY ENTREPRENEURIAL
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INFLUENCED ME
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OF BUSINESS SUCCESS.**



OVER THE HORIZON

ANIRUDH BALAJI

Founder & CEO, Horizon Group



ounder & CEO of Chennai's Horizon Group, Anirudh Balaji owns a

platform that works in diverse verticals including Business Solutions, Design and Event Management.

Drawing on the power of experience, knowledge, ability to lead and deliver Anirudh has managed to create his own niche in the market as a true entrepreneur.

The business background he grew up in instilled the inclination to be a job provider and not a job seeker.

"I believe that success is no accident; it is hard work, perseverance, learning and most of all love for what you do. I have always looked forward to learning new things in my life. Hence, I decided to get out of my comfort zone to join an MNC in Hyderabad, which taught me the art of management as well as technical knowledge"

He started his first venture during his college where he got to understand wealth management and public relations. "I wanted to bridge the gap between the entertainment industry and the corporate sector.

Hence, I started my own company 'Horizon Group'.

Horizon is a Business Solution, Design and an Events company. I came up with the name Horizon because, to me, it is all about escaping your limits," says Anirudh.

Working hard to turn his dreams into reality, Anirudh says his young team with different ideas and mindset is helping too. "I want to empower and motivate the youth of today for a better tomorrow."

Apart from doing a variety of tasks including branding, public relations, wealth management and conceptualising projects which fall under the business solution vertical, his team tries to think out-of-the-box for creative solutions to a given problem. The event wing of his company does movie audio launches, MNC conferences and concerts and have managed events like Farhan Akhtar's live concert and Naseeruddin Shah's theatrical play, which were massive successes. This apart, the company has a vertical called horizon design where they work on print and digital media graphics, visual communication as well as digital marketing.

And while the pandemic did impact him, he turned to digital marketing and virtual events and successfully floated a company called horizon hygiene to support the medical industry. Currently, Horizon has tied up with a few multinational companies and is working towards giving back to the society.



**I CAME UP
WITH THE NAME
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TO ME, IT IS ALL
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LEADING THE STATE

ARYA RAJENDRAN

Mayor, Thiruvananthapuram municipal corporation



s India's youngest mayor at just 21 Arya Rajendran has able shoulders to take on the mantle of the city of Thiruvananthapuram.

At 21, most students are at arguably leading their best lives where responsibility is probably the last thing on their minds. However, Arya Rajendran is not like any 21-year-old. On 28th December 2020, she created history of sorts when she was sworn in to become the country's youngest mayor.

A second year B.Sc. Mathematics student studying at All Saints College in Thiruvananthapuram, she did her schooling from Carmel Girls Higher Secondary School, Trivandrum. Born to Rajendran, her father who is an electrician and Sreelatha, her mother, an LIC agent.

For someone who was the state president of the world's largest children's organization, Bala Sangham and state committee member of Students' Federation of India she also worked as area committee member of CPI(M) at Chala. Contesting from the Mudavanmugal ward in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation as the candidate of Communist Party of India (Marxist) in the 2020 civic body elections she

defeated Sreekala, the UDF candidate by 2872 votes to eventually become India's youngest mayor.

As the mayor, Rajendran has mentioned that she would like to focus on increasing the number of primary health centres and waste management in Thiruvananthapuram. She is also concerned about the increase in the bio waste resulting from the ongoing pandemic and is putting measures for its safe disposal in the city.

Naturally her appointment was quick to be noticed and applauded by stalwarts like Shashi Tharoor, Kamal Hassan and Gautam Adani, among others. Rajendran will be the first person to learn a certificate course on decentralisation and local governance for the representatives of local self-governments as well.

For someone who is juggling her exams with the huge responsibility of her role on her young shoulders, Rajendran is the perfect epitome of the adage that age is no bar as she juggles meetings, studies and felicitations with an aplomb that is worth emulating. And for people who question her age, her answer is simple as she says her deeds will speak not her words.



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DIPLOMAT



SIGHTS ON SUCCESS

BENO ZEPHINE

Diplomat, IFS



Being completely visually impaired did not deter Beno Zephine who is today an officer in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).

Born in Chennai her father is a railways employee and mother a homemaker, Zephine studied at Little Flower Convent Higher Secondary school for the blind and completed her graduation in English literature from Stella Maris College, Chennai and post-graduation from Loyola College, Chennai. For someone who was clear she wanted to do Civil Services, she worked hard to clear the exam with a rank of 343 in the Civil Services Examination 2013. Having a clear idea that she wanted to make a change in society, she worked towards her goal patiently and persistently. An active student, she was always interested in debates as a child and participated in speaking competitions through school and college. Being challenged visually was something that she consciously never allowed to block her path. She received the call of her selection into IFS when she was working at State Bank of India on probation

when she was 25 years old. She credits the unending support of her parents for her success. Using Braille and Job Access with Speech (JAWS), a software that allows visually impaired persons to read from a computer screen or a mobile phone, Zephine's mom would also read to her and help her with her notes. Being open to learn new things and face challenges, Zephine says that her appointment is a step in the right direction. Having been selected to work in India's highest ranked service she feels will serve as an encouragement for others who are differently abled.

She hopes that people find it easier to accept her as she is as she is firm that she is no different from anyone and can do the job as well as anyone else. For someone who refuses to be called inferior, she says it is important that people do not differentiate and learn to be as normal as they would with some who can see. After all what she has achieved is nothing short of a story of how grit and determination can overcome any challenge.



“

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SPORTS



AIMING HIGH

BHAVANI DEVI

Indian Fencer



he first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics, Bhavani Devi has beaten many odds in her path. She recently made history as the first ever fencer to qualify for the Olympic Games.

After completing her schooling in Chennai, Devi completed Engineering and Business Administration degrees. She got into fencing when she was in school and was only 14 when she entered her first international tournament in Turkey. Unfortunately, being late by three minutes gave her black card, one of the most serious penalties in the sport.

However, she overcame all that to win the bronze medal at the 2009 Commonwealth Championship, Malaysia and 2010 Asian Championship in Philippines as well as in the 2010 International Open, Thailand and Commonwealth Championship, Jersey 2015. In 2015, she became one of the 15 athletes chosen by the Rahul Dravid Athlete Mentorship Programme, GoSports Foundation. She also won gold medals at the 2012 Commonwealth Championship, Jersey and the 2014 Tuscany Cup, Italy and finished

fifth in the Viking Cup 2016 Icelandic International Sabre Tournaments in Reykjavik. She became the first Indian to win a gold medal at the senior Commonwealth Fencing Championship in Canberra in the sabre event.

Currently world number 42, Devi however has had a tough journey to where she is. To fund her career, her mother had pawned her jewellery and Devi spent almost five years to train in Europe. She has always said that despite having four siblings, her parents have supported her needs as an athlete.

Being in an unconventional sport she is often the only Indian in international meets. And while the Olympic qualification means a lot, the road ahead is not easy. She recently lost in the round of 64 at the World cup to a lower seeded opponent and knows she must train much harder. She hopes that she can do well and does miss her father whom she lost in 2019 and regrets that he is not around to see her now. As a woman who is changing gender notions in an unconventional sport, Devi knows she is treading on an unconventional trajectory.



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MUSIC



ON A HIGH NOTE

CHINMAYI SRIPADA

Singer and Entrepreneur



Her sonorous voice is not just part of many hit songs but Chinmayi

Sripada is an artist who is known to raise her voice for women. Her Twitter profile reads “A Voice. Strangled Songbird. Entrepreneur - Blue Elephant Translation Services.” Say hello to Chinmayi Sripada the voice that is behind several movie songs, who is also a dubbing artist (she has extensively dubbed for actress Samantha Akkineni), television presenter and radio jockey. Founder and CEO of Blue Elephant, a translation services company, she is the voice behind ‘Oru Deivam Thantha Poovae’ from the movie Kannathil Muthamittal.

A graduate in psychology from the University of Madras, Sripada is Odissi dancer and can speak Telugu, Malayalam, English, Marathi, Bengali and German apart from her mother tongue Tamil. She received the CCRT Scholarship for Young Talent for Carnatic Music from the Government of India when she was only 10 years old.

Married to actor Rahul Ravindran, Chinmayi has worked as a television presenter, radio jockey and

compere as well as music judge on television. She is also the voice behind the hit melodious number Titli in the Hindi movie Chennai Express and has sung over 1000 songs in eight languages.

Her company started in 2005 is called Blue Elephant and is a translation services company that has been the language service provider for various multinational companies. In 2011 she was selected for the prestigious FORTUNE/US State Department Global Women’s Mentoring Partnership Program, a first for a woman entrepreneur from Tamil Nadu.

As a crusader for women rights, she has used her Twitter account to raise her voice in the ‘Me Too’ movement. Unfortunately, this has seen offers dwindle from the Tamil industry and she is also embroiled in a fight with the South Indian Cine, Television Artistes and Dubbing Artistes Union that has expelled her. While she continues working in the Telugu, Kannada, Hindi and Malayalam film industries, she says that she will not give up and continue to say what is right for women empowerment. A singer with a voice is the best way to describe her.



**AS A CRUSADER
FOR WOMEN
RIGHTS, SHE HAS
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IN THE 'ME TOO'
MOVEMENT.**





ENVIRONMENT



WATER WISE

GARVITA GULHATI

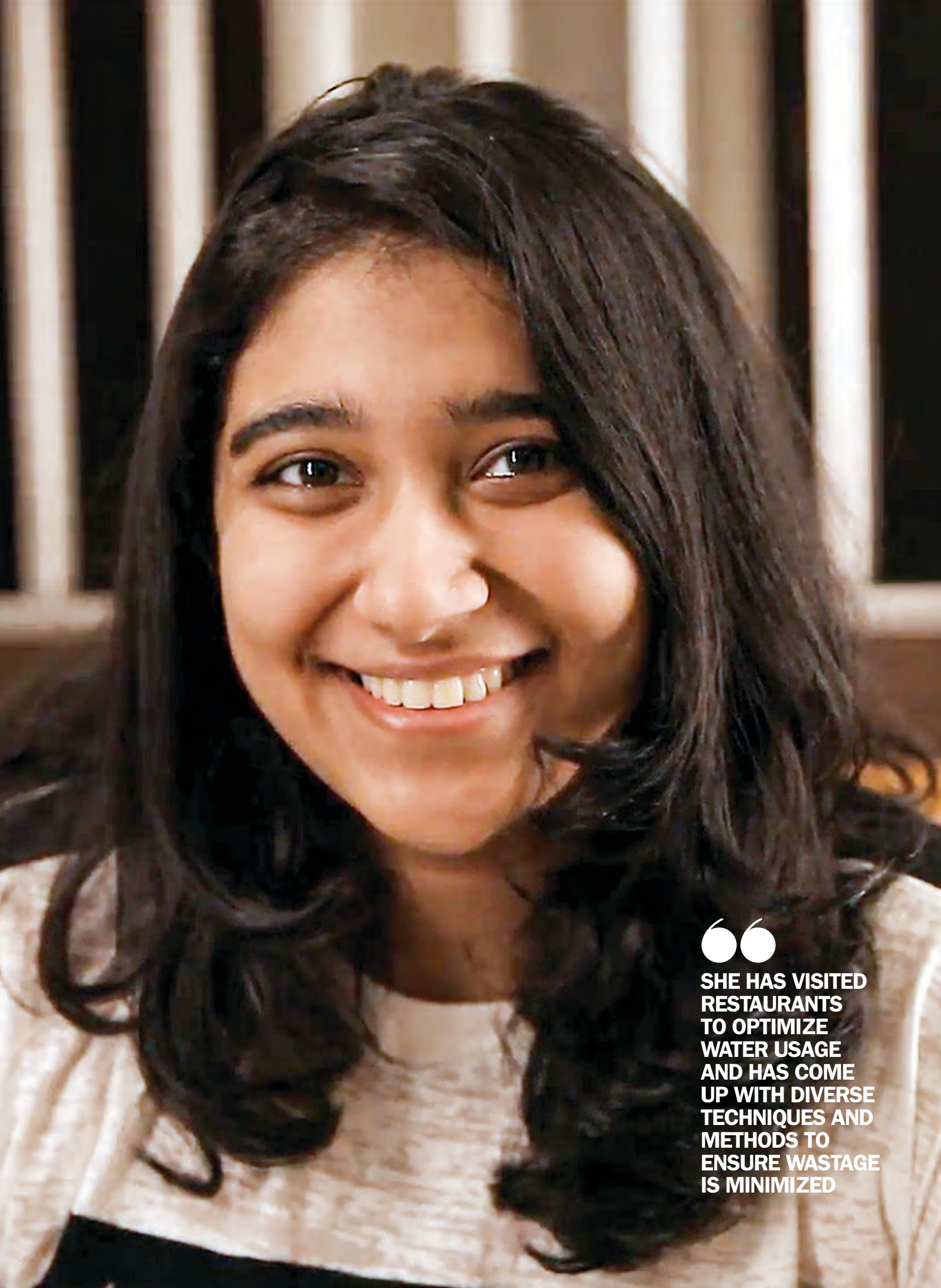
Founder, Why waste



young student, Garvita Gulhati is making a difference by using simple techniques that have saved lakhs of liters of water at restaurants. At 18, most youngsters are enjoying their youth and mostly looking to have fun. However, in 2018 when Garvita Gulhati was 18 she became the only Indian among 60 others from 42 countries to win the 'Global Changemaker' title. A B Tech student she is the Co-founder of Why Waste, a Bangalore based organisation that works with restaurants by helping them prevent wastage of water left behind in glasses. Her tryst with water conservation goes back to a presentation by Kuldeep Dantewadia, CEO of Reap Benefits she saw when she was just 15. When she learnt that a whopping 14 million liters of water get wasted from restaurants each year, she started 'Why Waste?' to make a difference. She has physically gone to restaurants to optimize water usage and has come up with diverse techniques and methods to ensure wastage is minimized. She has also involved guests as a key

stakeholder in the process and uses models and artwork to make this shift. Her organization is present in Mumbai, Delhi, Nagpur, Kolkata and Hyderabad and she is also studying this in countries like US and UK

Her simple mantra is to fill a glass five times half instead of three times full and be mindful of not leaving water in the glass. Her efforts have managed to save 8 lakh liters of water. She is also the founder of 'Changemakers Society' through which she wants to empower college-going youth to build a more sustainable society and 'LeadYoung' that focuses on how young people can help build a better world. She also has Ecotonix, a series of humorous cartoons and graphics that talk about environmental and social issues. While she always emphasizes on the importance of saving water in all aspects of life including bathing and brushing teeth, it is her work with half full glasses of water in restaurants that has made a real impact in the restaurant industry. And for once when the glass is half full it is a sign of optimism for the water industry.



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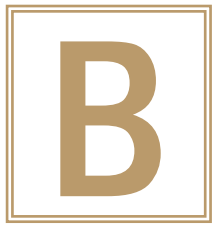
FASHION



PASSION FOR FASHION

DR. HEMAMALINI LAKSHMAN

Former Mrs. India Universe Queen



balancing academics and fashion may seem like an oxymoron, but Mrs. India

Universe, 2018 Dr. Hemamalini Lakshman has always beaten stereotypes. "When you follow your heart and dreams you can make them a reality." It was her belief in these words that saw Dr. Hemamalini Lakshman win the title of Mrs. India Universe, 2018. Cheered on by her family including her children Abhijith and Diviya, she also won the subtitle of Mrs. Beautiful.

Born in Chennai, where she completed most of her education, literature was always an area of interest. Armed with a Masters' degree in English literature, topping the college with a Gold Medal, she married young to Dr. K Lakshman, an eminent leading pathologist from Mysore, who motivated her to do her PhD Doctorate in English Literature.

Despite her lofty academic achievements, she admits that the tiara has always fascinated her. "I have been passionate about fashion since I was very young. But I like to put my own spin and style on it. I believe that fashion is what you buy and style is what you do with it." Her father Dr. D. Jayakumar was the one who made her believe she was very special and encouraged her in all

her endeavors. "He made me feel like a princess and gave me a very high sense of self-esteem."

Her win at the contest also came from a lot of hard work and preparation from fitness to makeup sessions and more. "My day started with one hour of yoga early morning, current affairs knowledge sessions and grooming classes. We all had to make a presentation on violence against women that needed much research."

For someone who balances her personal and professional life with aplomb, she says it is always family first and admits they are the reason behind her success. "My husband Lakshman was there to reassure me at every step and he and my children encouraged and gave me critical feedback. I can say that whatever I have achieved in life, it is only because of the support of my husband." She is also passionate about gardening and organic farming and loves working with children and conduct workshops on the importance of a green environment. She also conducts grooming workshops for aspiring models, women empowerment projects and works of charity for the less fortunate. She counts her mother Rajivi Jayakumar as her inspiration and role model as she balances her life perfectly.

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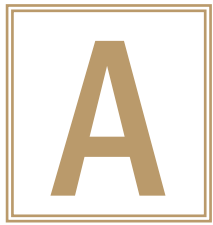
FILM



EMOTING ON SCREEN

KEERTHY SURESH

Actor



Actor Keerthy Suresh is a breath of fresh air on the big screen and in her career span to date has already shown many glimpses of her acting prowess.

Born in a film family, her father G. Suresh Kumar is a producer and director and her mother Menaka is an actress. In that sense films and acting were in her genes and Keerthy Suresh started work as a child artist when she was only eight. And admits that she was very sure she always wanted to be an actor and would act in front of the mirror as a child.

After doing a few films like Achaneyanekkishtam (2001), Kuberan (2002) and Pilots (2000) all directed by her father, she took a break to complete her education. She debuted as an actress with a leading role in the 2013 Malayalam film Geethaanjali after earning a degree in fashion designing and has since worked in a clutch of Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam productions. She has several box-office hits to her credit including Ring Master (2014), Idhu Enna Maayam (2015), Rajini Murugan (2016), Remo (2016), Nenu Sailaja (2016), Bairavaa (2017), Nenu Local (2017), Thaana Serndha

Kootam (2018), Sandakozhi 2 (2018) and Sarkar (2018) among others. However, it was her portrayal of yesteryear actor Savitri in the Telugu film Mahanati (2018), that brought her acting chops to everyone's attention and her first National Award for Best Actress. She won every award that year for her realistic portrayal of the actress that tugged at many heart strings.

And self admittedly gave her not just a sense of responsibility but also the confidence to do more roles and carry films on her able shoulders. In 2020, she not just debuted on OTT platforms with her movies Penguin (Amazon) and Miss India (Netflix), but also once again proved her mettle in her ability to do justice to a variety of roles.

Looking ahead, she has a busy year and apart from completing Rang De, Arabikadalinte Simham and Good Luck Sakhi, she is filming Vaashi, Saani Kaayidham, Annaatthe and Sarkru Vaari Paata. Naturally then, the road ahead for this talented artiste is bright and she is sure to rise to the occasion and light up the screen with her performances.



**HER PORTRAYAL OF
YESTERYEAR ACTOR
SAVITRI IN THE TELUGU
FILM MAHANATI
BROUGHT HER ACTING
CHOPS TO EVERYONE'S
ATTENTION**

RISING INNOVATOR

KRISHNA BELLANI

Chairman, Bellani Group

C

hennai based entrepreneur, Krishna Bellani believes in the mantra of being prepared to handle any crisis, pandemic included. At 23, Krishna

Bellani, Founder, Bellani Group has a conglomerate of companies that he runs.

Apart from taking over his family owned businesses, in 2016 (the day he turned 19), he established Bellani Group that is involved in retail and wholesale fabric trading and is now venturing into FMCG manufacturing, specifically food and beverages, He also has Thakurdas Choithram Private Limited and Hebal Constructions Private Limited that are real estate companies. He has also started Bellani Capital Private Limited, a new company incorporated in Singapore, and says the project is still under wraps.

However, his journey has not been easy. His father Lalchand Menghraj Bellani, a victim of the 1947 partition came up the hard way working at small stores to finally owning a series of stores in Chennai and soon became a successful businessman. However, at 68, he met Anu his neighbour and married her in spite of stiff family objection in 1996. Lalchand brokered peace by giving his store in Ratan Bazaar to his family and then went on

to build an iconic store on Anna Salai, Chennai.

Krishna recollects he had a tough childhood where his relatives were not his well-wishers. He gave up his studies after his plus two as he wanted to help his father whose health and business was deteriorating. The business was in deep debt and it took Krishna two years to turn the company around.

His current portfolio includes fabrics that range from ₹30/metre to ₹25000/metre and an FMCG line launching in FY21-2022 that includes pink salt, black salt, iodised salt, potato chips and an energy drink.

“Our business processes include hiring youngsters without formal education, who actually want to make money and we pay them as much as senior executives at IT companies. We prefer to function with complete financial independence and freedom, by taking on no debt. I prefer to compete with myself and ignore competition.” He admits that he is inspired by his parents and says his father made money selling goods while his mother made money in stocks and hopes to combine the two skills himself. Looking ahead, Krishna says that he hopes to pioneer the food and beverages market by 2027 and venturing into the construction materials and metals market by 2025.



**I PREFER TO COMPETE
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GREEN FINGERS

LIKITHA BHANU

Founder, Terra Greens



likitha Bhanu's venture Terra Greens

Organic is on a mission to provide organic and healthy food to the consumer.

Armed with a graduation in biotechnology from Vellore Institute of Technology, Bhanu was always clear that she wanted to have a career in renewable energy and sustainable living. Her foray into organic farming came as a result of this ethos and she started Terra Greens at her family's 127 acres property.

Her inspiration came from her mother who had started organic farming on a two-acre plot within the property that grew to 40 acres and hence it was something that she had seen closely growing up.

Since they had so much produce, the mother-daughter duo decided to market the same under the brand name *Terra Greens*. Seeing the surge in demand, Bhanu tied up with organic farmers in five other states including Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

With about 12000 plus tie-ups, farmers are at the center of their relationship. They not just help fund

the organic certification process, but also absorb all the produce they cultivate. Bhanu believes that a sustainable agricultural practice is good for both the people and the planet.

By eliminating chemical pesticides and fertilizers, they have put in place ethical practices for the team of farmers. The best part about their products is that they are completely traceable and are certified by India Organic and USDA Organic.

While the COVID-19 has thrown a spanner in their works, they are looking for equity funding for the project. Green station will be a supermarket chain that will have multi brand products.

She is also actively exploring non plastic options for product packaging. Looking ahead, Bhanu hopes to expand the farmer network to over 25000 plus and open more stores in Hyderabad and expand to both Chennai and Bengaluru. For someone who grew up amid nature in a green surrounding, who better than Bhanu to make the choice to make a difference?



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**ARMED WITH A
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SCREEN TIME

MALAVIKA MOHANAN

Film Actress



Malavika Mohanan is making her presence felt on the big screen by choosing a diverse set of roles that bring forth her acting chops on screen. At 27, Malavika Mohanan has made her mark in Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi and Kannada films. Having graduated in Mass Media at Wilson College, Mumbai, she hoped to follow in her father cinematographer K. U. Mohanan's footsteps, but fate had other plans and she debuted with the 2013 movie Pattam Pole. Interestingly, she also designed her costumes in the movie. Interestingly she also has her own brand of Indian ethnic fusion clothing called The Scarlet Window. She followed this up with movies like Nirnayakam (2015), Naanu Mattu Varalakshmi (2016), Beyond the Clouds, The Great Father (both in 2017), Petta (2019) and Master (2021). She is currently working on Yudhra, a movie directed by Ravi Udyawar.

Her Hindi debut in Majid Majidi's drama film, Beyond the Clouds where she essayed the character of a resident in Mumbai's dhobi ghat area was screened in several international festivals. And this film opened to rave critical reviews giving her acting career a big push. During the lockdown, she discovered her passion for wildlife photography which is now a full-fledged hobby. An avid biker, she has said that she loves learning new languages and it has helped her broaden the scope of her work as well. For someone who is clear that she will do roles that add to the story instead of being a mere addition, she believes that she walks the talk by choosing roles with this guideline in mind. During her free time, the self-confessed nature lover, likes to travel off the beaten path and explore obscure locations and is off the tourist trail as she feels it also is a source of inspiration.



**IN HER HINDI
DEBUT, BEYOND
THE CLOUDS
SHE ESSAYED
THE CHARACTER
OF A RESIDENT
IN MUMBAI'S
DHOBI GHAT AREA
WAS SCREENED
IN SEVERAL
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVALS**





NGO



A HELPING HAND

MANISHA PRAMOD CHORDIA

Member, State Women Commission Government of Tamilnadu
Chairperson & Managing Trustee of RCC Diva Foundation



community club of the RCC fraternity, RCC Diva is spearheaded by Manisha Pramod Chordia is solely run by

women and helps other women. Founded 13 years ago, this organization has contributed to the community with a combination of passion and skill to help strengthen womanhood. The RCC DIVA Foundation is the charity arm of RCC DIVA, a women-managed organization which primarily focuses on empowerment and upliftment of girls and women. For over a decade, Prayas their flagship project has trained girls in tailoring and cosmetology, enabling underprivileged and unemployed women to be self-reliant. Deputy CM of Tamil Nadu O.Panneerselvam nominated Manisha as Member of the State Women Commission of Tamilnadu and she is the first woman of Rajasthani origin to be nominated for the prestigious post. "When I was eight, I was quite clear that I wanted to reduce the inequality I saw in the world around me and thought to myself that if I could help underprivileged women and be their voice, I could touch many lives. I wanted to make a difference," says Manisha.

Under its #Vision2020 initiative, the foundation is committed to promote 'Skill India' initiative as part of the Government of India's 'Beti Padhao and Beti Bachao'

campaign and hopes that girls become independent socially and financially through life skills-based learning. The foundation primarily works with women beneficiaries who have limited access to education and have been imparted skills that has helped them earn well for a self-sufficient life. They also come from traditional patriarchal families, where women are not given the same importance or value as men. The foundation hopes to undo the traditional mindset of inferiority the communities have instilled in them, and help them blossom into confident, independent women. "We are currently in the process of developing an app for charity. In a world where convenience is king an app can make donating easy and convenient. Users will receive regular notifications about requirements in and around city and with a tap of a finger they can donate in kind or cash," says Manisha.

The pandemic and lockdown have not downed their spirits and they have had many online sessions with names like Sonam Wangchuk, Gaur Gopal Das, Boman Irani, Jai Madaan, Dabboo Ratnani, Sanjeev Kapoor and R. Ashwin among others. They have also had online development sessions for the younger generation for learning and managing stress. The women intend to work together to positively connect and engage the community.



**“EMBODIMENT
OF WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT
FOR BEING
NOMINATED
AS MEMBER
STATE WOMEN
COMMISSION,
GOVERNMENT
OF TAMILNADU”**





BUREAUCRAT



TOP COP

MERIN JOSEPH

Police Commissioner



For someone who dreamt of joining the Civil Services when she was in her sixth grade, Merin Joseph is the youngest IPS officer in the Kerala cadre. A brilliant student she cracked the Indian Police Service (IPS) in her first attempt and was only 25 when she became an IPS officer. Supported by her parents, her father who was in the Indian Economic Service and her mother who supported her goals, she completed her training at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad.

At the academy she learnt several skills like combat training, horse riding, swimming and weapon firing. Her IPS training also made her a better listener, resilient human and a strict taskmaster.

She is married to Kerala based Psychiatrist Dr. Chris Abraham, she has raised her voice and batted for the cause of women in several ways, including objecting to women being listed as eye candy.

To walk the talk, she has also been instrumental in nabbing a rape accused from Saudi Arabia. The culprit in question had raped a minor and escaped to Riyadh.

On taking charge as the police commissioner in Kollam in Kerala, Joseph decided to take this case into her hands. She and her team flew into Riyadh and worked with the local police to bring the accused to be booked. Hailed for ensuring the accused was extradited to India, this case was important as the victim had unfortunately committed suicide. This is also why Joseph consciously focuses on helping women and children as she believes that justice for them is also elusive.

A vocal advocate of gender equality, Joseph says that it is important to lead with grit and determination, admitting that gender has never played a part in anything she does. She believes that if there are more women in IPS can certainly augur well for the safety of women in general.

Joseph believes that it is important to be the change and lead by example to inspire others. This she admits will have a chain reaction when those inspired by her will go ahead and inspire other women. Words of wisdom from Kerala's youngest IPS officer that can certainly inspire other women.



**A VOCAL ADVOCATE
OF GENDER EQUALITY,
JOSEPH SAYS THAT
IT IS IMPORTANT TO
LEAD WITH GRIT AND
DETERMINATION**



SPORT



STRIKES AGAIN

T. NATRAJAN

Cricketer



Natarajan is making his mark one match at a time as he plays for India

in T20's One Day Internationals, Test Cricket as well as in the IPL. Born in Chinnappampatti, a village near Salem to his parents, a weaver and mother who had a street side food stall, T Natarajan is the eldest of five siblings. And while he struggled to buy notebooks and pencils growing up, he worked hard, travelling in buses to play cricket matches till he finally found a place in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The 29-year-old made his first-class debut for Tamil Nadu in the Ranji Trophy in 2014-15, he followed it up with appearances in the IPL with Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

In the recent 2020-21 tour of Australia he became the first Indian cricketer to make his international debut across all three formats. He made his first international wicket during his ODI debut was Marnus Labuschagne and he also made his T20 debut taking three wickets for thirty runs. His test debut saw him dismissing

Matthew Wade for his first international Test wicket.

His exploits on the field helped India script a rare series win Down Under that also saw him receive a brand-new Mahindra Thar SUV by Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra. He admits that playing cricket for India is the biggest privilege of my life and he is quite overwhelmed and grateful for the love and affection he has received.

His success story started last year as he shone in the 13th IPL season in the United Arab Emirates where he played for Sunrisers Hyderabad and shone with the ball. His mentor Jayaprakash has taught him the sport and as a sign of respect his bowling wrist has a tattoo with the letters 'JP' inked.

And the young cricketer is already giving back as he is not just sharpening his yorkers but also helping local children in his village play cricket the right way at his academy. A sportsman who has overcome several adversities, Natarajan epitomises the adage that hard work is the key to success.

“

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ENTREPRENEUR



BULL RUN

NIKHIL KAMATH

Co-Founder, Zerodha



India's youngest billionaire Nikhil Kamath has taken the stock route to turn his fortunes and is a shining example of a self-made entrepreneur. A school dropout who was great at chess and math and is today India's youngest billionaire Nikhil Kamath has come a long way. As a school student Kamath was tired of the conventional methods of teaching. His father worked at a bank and was in a transferable job. When he was nine, the family settled in Bangalore. His distaste for schooling stemmed from the fact that he was never told why he had to do something as it simply had to be done which he found very inhibiting. This slowly led to him losing interest in formal education. When he was just 14, he started his first business of buying and selling used phones that found disapproval from his mother who put an end to it. As his school would not allow him to take his board exams, he dropped out. At that point Kamath had no plan in place but landed his

first job at a call center when he was just 17 through a fake birth certificate where he worked from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. for a salary of 8000.

As he had the mornings free, he tried his hand at trading. When he was 18 his father gave him some of his savings and asked him to manage it and he invested them in stocks. He also convinced his call center manager to invest and helped trade for other employees. His last year there saw him get incentives despite not being at work a single day as he was managing the entire team's money.

He then quit his job to start Kamath Associates and in 2010, they (his elder brother Nithin Kamath and him) launched Zerodha. Zerodha is today India's biggest stock brokerage company in terms of volume. The brothers also founded True Beacon, an asset management company and soon made it to the Forbes' list of India's 100 richest in 2020.



**WHEN HE WAS
JUST 14, HE
STARTED HIS
FIRST BUSINESS
OF BUYING AND
SELLING USED
PHONES**





MUSIC MATTERS

SAMEER SETHI

Founder, Life in Technicolour and Circle of Love



Sameer Sethi is using his nearly two decades of experience in the media, entertainment and wedding space to make a mark on the independent music scene. An electronics engineer started his career with large format event management companies and has spearheaded many big events and entertainment shows for celebrities across Paris, London, Canada, Germany, Singapore, Malaysia and other places across the world. Having successfully executed mega projects like the Britannia Filmfare Awards South, Anirudh Ravichander's live shows, Vanitha Awards, Shankar's 2.0 audio launches and being an integral part of music festivals like Sunburn festival and Sensation India, he has diverse skills in the field of experiential marketing and live concerts.

However, last year he decided to do more after his 18 plus years in the industry and started 'Life in Technicolour', a 360-degree experiential marketing agency providing end-to-end solutions. "During the pandemic everyone had a chance to rediscover themselves and as the events and hospitality industry had taken a big hit, we started Life in Technicolour. Through this we executed many weddings, bespoke private and virtual events, provided sanitisation solutions and made content films for frontline workers.

While this project was born out of necessity, it was our love and passion for artists, that led us to start the Circle of Love

(COL)." COL is a music community platform, Record Label, Music Editorial and Foundation & Artist initiative all rolled into one.

Since independent musicians had no gigs during the pandemic, COL was used as a platform to start the CenterStage series where indie bands like The Easy Wanderlings, Mali, Jbabe, Profanyty, Stevie and Henny performed at locations around Chennai and these were streamed for free on their social media platforms. "This got much attention as it happened amidst the pandemic and caught the attention of a lot of indie artists and brands. Circle of Love (COL) is a community initiative that puts the spotlight on homegrown music and cultural projects for curious audiences. COL makes brands part of the cultural conversation through original content, open mic nights, masterclasses, women DJ workshops and podcasts to shape the music landscape," says Sethi.

COL being an initiative for independent artists is aiming to help cultural music diversity by giving a platform to local artists, events and communities. "We are also producing tracks to raise awareness for issues like down syndrome and autism." An art aficionado, Sethi likes dabbling with creative content technologies, video mapping as an artist and exploring new ideas. Going forward he wants to humanise brands and make the live event space more revolutionary.



**CIRCLE OF LOVE
MAKES BRANDS PART
OF THE CULTURAL
CONVERSATION
THROUGH ORIGINAL
CONTENT, OPEN MIC
NIGHTS, WOMEN DJ
WORKSHOPS AND
PODCASTS TO SHAPE
THE MUSIC LANDSCAPE**





NGO



FEED THE NEEDY

SNEHA MOHANDOSS

Founder, Food Bank India



Sneha Mohandoss, a Chennai-based food activist is doing her bit to make sure that no one on the planet goes hungry. Having studied at Annamalai University and graduated with a Master of Social Work, Mohandas based in Chennai, started Foodbank India in 2015 to fight hunger. She and a set of volunteers, started to achieve this goal by cooking extra meals every day so that the underprivileged could eat hot meals.

In 2020, on International Women's Day, Sneha Mohandoss was the first woman to take over the PM's Twitter account. She has founded an NGO called Food Bank India, that is working towards a hunger-free planet. This is done by distributing home-cooked food that is neatly packaged and distributed among the poor and homeless.

Incidentally Mohandoss was inspired by her mother who instilled the habit of feeding the homeless. In fact, her team also collects all the dry food ration from the doorsteps of people who contribute which is then delivered to the homeless people in the locality.

With over 20 chapters across the world, she has

initiated activities like breastfeeding awareness drives, mass cooking and cooking marathons and admits that she feels a sense of empowerment when she follows her passion. Her mantra is that each person must feed at least one needy person that can make the planet hunger free.

To amplify her voice, she is also the State secretary of Kamal Haasan's Makkal Neethi Maiam (MINM)'s women's wing called Maiam Maadhar Padai. She has promised to give her heart and soul to bring the change she wants to see.

She uses the power of social media, especially platforms like Facebook to make sure more people join the initiative and believes that sharing her success with her team is the only way she can make a difference to the lives of those who have no food to eat.

Her philosophy is certainly giving people food for thought (pun unintended) and hopefully makes people act in the right direction to feed the mouth that is hungry. After all that is exactly the premise of Food Bank India.



**SHE IS ALSO
THE STATE
SECRETARY
OF KAMAL
HAASAN'S
MAKKAL NEETHI
MAIAM'S
WOMEN'S WING
CALLED MAIAM
MAADHAR PADAI.**



ENTREPRENEUR



WOMAN ON TOP

SPOORTHI VISHWAS

Founder Director, Karnataka Women Achievers Awards (KWAA),
Indian Women Achievers Awards (IWAA), Life Coach, Entrepreneur, Actress



life coach who is an entrepreneur
and actress, Spoorthi Vishwas

juggles her various roles with a rare aplomb. Raised by a single mother, Spoorthi Vishwas learnt to be independent early, working from a tender age of 15. With 17 Kannada films, three Tamil and three Telugu films she was also part of two extremely popular television series. "My intellectual drive got me to complete an MBA and a PGPM. From this high level of aspiration to leading a life in marital bliss, my world changed overnight." While the next three years she focused on being a homemaker, she never stopped thinking about the hundreds of women who were craving to be the best version of themselves. Soon she launched KWAA, IWAA and Dream Big Vision Pvt Ltd, a mentoring and training company. The thought process behind launching the award shows was to recognize women doing a good job in their respective fields.

"Every year we call out for an open nomination and we choose the best winner out of all the nominees in 20 given categories. I believe all the good work and values we put into it has come back to us as a

blessing. The opportunities, the relationships built, and the amazing people I met through KWAA are a high point." Taking this ethos forward is IWAA, a platform across India.

"I am an ATD certified Life Coach mentored by Darshan Somaiya who is popularly known as India's Own Millionaire Mentor." Three glorious years of KWAA, the impact and recognition has been humongous and humbling, with this significant success backing and inspiring me, I launched SHE India mission to shape and build more women achievers across India, the mentorship programme has already trained 3400+ women across the span of this country in just one year, the program has been an exceptional success with 75 of its members already starting their own Independent business ventures.

"I wish to explore the coaching avenue and take it a couple of notches higher, I plan to take the training programme to the grass roots that is the women's colleges and equip and enable them at the budding stages to reach for the stars. Then of course the launch of IWAA - Indian women achievers awards, the Pan India search for the most deserving achiever."



**THE THOUGHT
PROCESS BEHIND
LAUNCHING
THE AWARD
SHOWS WAS TO
RECOGNISE THE
TRULY DESERVING
UNSUNG WOMEN
ACHIEVERS OF OUR
COUNTRY!**





FILM



DIRECTING CHANGE

SUDHA KONGARA

Film Director



ilm director and screenwriter,

Sudha Kongara who has given a new look to Tamil and Telugu cinema with a choice of offbeat subjects.

Kongara started her film career as a screenwriter for the English film *Mitr, My Friend* (2002). She then started working as assistant director to veteran Mani Ratnam for seven years. She made her debut in the 2008 Telugu film *Andhra Andagadu* and her Tamil debut in the 2010 film *Drohi*, both films that she also scripted.

In 2016, she wrote and directed her boxing sports drama *Irudhi Suttru* that was adapted into the Hindi movie *Saala Kadoos* and in Telugu as *Guru*. *Saala Kadoos* also saw her win a Filmfare Award for Best Director. In 2020, she had three release on OTT platforms including *Putham Pudhu Kaalai*, an anthology film where she directed the segment *Ilamai Idho Idho* and *Paava Kadhaigal* a Netflix Anthology film where she directed the segment *Thangam* and *Soorarai Pottru*, starring Tamil actor Suriya, which received rave reviews.

Soorarai Pottru incidentally is based on the life of

Captain GR Gopinath, the founder of Air Deccan.

The movie has earned brownie points for its offbeat plot and is also in the Oscar 2021 race in the categories of best director, best actor and best actress.

An exceptional director she is known to tread the unconventional path while choosing her subjects.

A case in point is *Paava Kadhaigal* that focuses on the condition of women deep inside the rural villages of Tamil Nadu and the associated non-binary relationships, caste-based discrimination and class division. She has also featured transgender characters in her films to do her bit to remove the societal stigma around the community.

Interestingly, Kongara has always been outspoken about gender issues and detests being called a female director as she says a man is never called a male director. Her films also do not fit into slots, rather she likes to bring out aspects that are often unspoken of. Inspired by filmmakers Francis Ford Coppola, Mani Ratnam and Ram Gopal Varma, she has managed to carve her own niche in the industry.



**SUDHA KONGARA
HAS ALWAYS BEEN
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COSMETOLOGY



TRANSFORM AND LEAD THE WAY

DR. SUMAN CHERUKURI

Founder, Le Gorjuss Cosmetic Clinic



Dr. Suman Cherukuri is a Hyderabad based cosmetology professional who is the first to bring many advanced

treatments to India. She is a multi-award-winning Cosmetologist with a worldwide reputation as one of the leading experts in the advanced area of Aesthetic Medicine. She is regarded as one of Hyderabad's finest cosmetologists, trained and practiced in London and qualified under American Board of Aesthetic Medicine (USA). Dr. Suman was awarded as a Lady Legend for her outstanding achievements, and her Clinic was ranked amongst the Top-5 in Hyderabad by Times of India.

Dr. Suman is a Cosmetic Doctor with a broad-based medical background. She graduated in MBBS and then obtained specialization in Dermatology and Fellowship in Advanced Lasers (U.K), Fellowship in Hair Transplant & Liposuction (USA) and Fellowship in Aesthetic Medicine (USA). After a successful career in London she returned to Hyderabad with a vision to bring the advanced technology backing with a highly qualified team of doctors and surgeons from all over the world locally to Hyderabad, India and founded Le Gorjuss Cosmetic clinic, one of India's advanced premier clinics to introduce surgical, non-surgical treatments along with a wide range of cosmetic and wellness treatments. Dr. Suman has unmatched expertise in the increasingly popular area of Cosmetology for both men and women

and as a recognised authority in this arena; she appears regularly in articles as well as speaking at medical conferences worldwide. Dr. Suman consults on every aspect of Skin, Hair and Body. She has been practicing evidence-based medicine and performing various advanced minimally invasive techniques to enhance the aesthetic look of people around the globe.

Cosmetic Surgical treatments like Oculo Facial Surgery, Hair Transplantation Surgery, Body Sculpting, Vaser Liposuction and various other Plastic Surgeries with an array of specialised Medical treatments like Anti-aging, Botox, Fillers, Acne, Pigmentation, PRP and Ultherapy are some of the treatments offered.

Dr. Suman charts a global outlook in keeping herself updated by the latest developments and the research that is being done in various parts of the globe in the field of Cosmetology. The extensive experience of Le Gorjuss specialists in cosmetic procedures and one of its kind cosmetic clinic with fully equipped procedure suites, zero infection zones, wheelchair accessibility and international standard protocols followed ensures this is a world class medical care. The clinic uses only internationally approved, US FDA equipment and products and have a stringent COVID-19 measures in place. Dr. Suman likes to find beauty in things that are odd and imperfect - they are much more interesting, she concludes.



DR. SUMAN CONSULTS ON EVERY ASPECT OF SKIN, HAIR AND BODY. SHE HAS BEEN PRACTICING EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE AND PERFORMING VARIOUS ADVANCED MINIMALLY INVASIVE TECHNIQUES TO ENHANCE THE AESTHETIC LOOK OF PEOPLE AROUND THE GLOBE.



FILM



SHOW BUSINESS

VARALAKSHMI SARATHKUMAR

Actor



Varalakshmi Sarathkumar has a busy 2021 with as many as ten films in the pipeline across Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam.

Varalakshmi Sarathkumar may have had acting in her genes being born to veteran actor R. Sarathkumar. But that did not deter her from pursuing her education completing her B.Sc. from Hindustan Arts & Science College and master's in management from the University of Edinburgh. In order to prepare for her life in front of the camera she brushed up her acting skills by doing a course at Anupam Kher's Acting School in Mumbai. She made her debut in the 2012 Tamil film Podaa Podi where she was hailed for a promising debut that also found much critical acclaim for her performance.

She followed it with films like Maanikya (2014), Tharai Thappattai (2016), Kaattu (2017), Sarkar (2018), Tenali Ramakrishna BA. BL (2019) and Kanni Raasi (2020) among many others. She has also hosted shows on television and done a web series Addham on the streaming platform Aha.

Apart from winning several awards for her debut, Sarathkumar has won many other awards during her career which is a testimony to her acting prowess. Known to speak her mind, she believes that everything happens at the right time and she does not plan her career. In fact, she says that she reads scripts and takes her own decisions to do her films without consulting anyone including her father. For someone who describes her film career as 'Good Bad and Ugly' courtesy the various successes and failures she has seen, she is clear that she does not want to be typecast. It is this ethos that reflects in her choice of roles. Her mantra is simple. To surprise her audience every time she is on screen which she believes will push her acting limits. Like her bold and unconventional choice of roles on screen, she is also clear about what she wants in her life. Having proclaimed recently that she would not marry, she has sent out a message that she has a clear focus on her career. And with her work in all the four South Indian languages it certainly seems like a good sign of things to come



**KNOWN TO SPEAK
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