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An Initiative by Marketing & Brand Honchos

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

MPOWERING

NOMEN

WOME

SPECIAL EDITION

MOST INSPIRING & INFLUENTIAL **INDIAN WOMEN**



PREFACE



"WOMEN POWER" is an initiative by Marketing & Brand Honchos to feature and highlight some of the Most Inspiring & Influential Indian women from various walks of Life who had created a distinct identity in society through their glorious contributions & achievements.

We have chosen some of the most especial women who have made their mark in various backgrounds and profiles clubbing the best of Bollywood, Politics, Corporate Sector, Sports and Entertainment. This special edition oozing

with inspirational success stories is aimed to inspire all those aspiring women who still find themselves in the shackles of society's orthodox and traditional thinking.

These stories of simple and ordinary women coming from humble backgrounds brings hope and courage to the dreamers especially those dwelling in the small gullies of rural India. People often see their glories and achievements but it's their struggles, battles, and hustles that turns the coal into diamond. In an attempt to highlight the less glorious and more important side of their journey, we bring you these stories of their grit, determination, effort and self-motivation that made all the difference in their stories!

We at Marketing & Brand Honchos, working with a Vision to Empower Brand India and we believe in order to empower Brand India we need to empower the Women in India; as the saying goes "if you educate a man, you educate an individual. But if you educate a woman, you educate a nation". So, we believe it is important to empower Indian women in order to empower "India".

We hope that this small initiative will definitely make an impact toward the cause and the purpose for which it is meant for. We will be aggressively promoting the same to make it more impactful.

We request all the readers & supporters to join hands in our mission by sharing the same with others.



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NITA AMBANI



The face of Women Empower in India

Nita Ambani, the chairperson and founder of the Reliance Foundation, Dhirubhai Ambani International School is an educationist, entrepreneur and philanthropist who is leading the country to better days. Mrs. Nita Ambani is a woman of impact driving the wheels of the Indian renaissance by powering projects like Rural Transformation, Health, Education, Sports for Development, Disaster Response, Arts, Culture and Heritage and Urban Renewal. Nita Ambani is named among the elite list of top philanthropists of 2020 for her relentless contributions. She is also the first Indian woman to be elected as a member of International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The debutant businesswoman of new India believes empowered woman breeds an empowered nation. As the first step in this direction, she bagged Reliance



Foundation Education and Sports for All (RF ESA) as a sponsor for the upcoming Women's T20 Challenge. Mrs. Ambani is also setting stones in bridging the gender gap in digital adoption and literacy among women in India. With better access to digital services, opportunities for skill development and a platform to showcase talent, Nita Ambani builds the blueprint of a better India.

The first lady of the Ambani Empire has chosen to script her own destiny while donning the conventional hats of motherhood and homemaker. She is the leader redefining gender conversations in this country. This eminent Indian entrepreneur is giving lessons to Indian women on acing the work-life balance. Breaking the glass shackles of patriarchy and social conventions, Nita Ambani whistles to awaken the woman power in India.





Establishing Women Leadership in the Corporate Ladder

Indra Nooyi, a transformative leader and global icon, was the former president, chairwoman and CEO of Pepsi co., a 160-billion-dollar snack, food and beverage corporation, Nooyi represented less than 5 per cent of women in the world who helmed the reigns



INDRA NOOYI

of a major conglomerate. Nooyi is one of the world's highest-ranking Indian women crowned with precious titles like 'world's most powerful businesswoman' and 'outstanding woman in business'. She has also been honoured with the Padma Bhushan -- the third-highest civilian award of the country for her contributions in claiming the position of women in the corporate world.

Indra Nooyi was the first woman to lead the soft-drink and snack-food giant at a time when only 2% of US companies were led by women. In a male-dominated corporate ladder, Indra Nooyi has stood as an exemplar demonstrating exceptional leadership qualities that come naturally to women. The Indian-born American honcho has craved her way to the apex of the corporate world leaving a trail of footsteps to inspire her tribe of womanhood. A woman of colour, a mother, a daughter, a wife and a CEO, Indra Nooyi is leading the next generation of women to an empowered road.

Just a page from the life of Indra Nooyi is enough to inspire the aspiring women who dream to achieve it all. Her journey to the top despite hailing from a conservative Indian family brings hope to millions of women looking up at the corporate ladder. This boss lady broke the chains of conservative social and cultural norms, stirred confidence in women to give wings to their dreams.





Someone Said It Right: Women Run the World

Kiran Mazumdar is the Chairman & Managing Director of Biocon India's Limited: largest listed biotechnology company based in Bengaluru and is also the former chairperson of IIM Bengaluru. In the year 1978, with an investment of Rs 10,000 in a rented garage space in Bengalaru, Kiran started her business journey, little was known that she will become the richest woman of India (in the year 2004) with a net worth of more than Rs 2,000 crore. She was also on the Forbes 2005 list of India's 40 richest people.

At the beginning of her entrepreneur journey, she encountered numerous challenges like credibility due to her age, gender & her untested business model. She faced funding problems as no bank was interested in lending her the money without a guarantor plus she had a difficult time while employing people as nobody wanted to work in a startup owned by a woman. Consequently, her first employee was a retired garage mechanic. Other than that, she faced quite a few troublesome technological challenges like unstable infrastructure, power, poor quality water, unhygienic labs, low-quality research equipment, workers without advanced scientific skills etc. But that did not demotivate her to work on her dream project. She overcame all the challenges and within a year of its inception, Biocon India became India's first company to be able to manufacture enzymes and export them to the United States and Europe.

Apart from Biocon, Kiran has been doing numerous philanthropic activities. She has a CSR wing called Biocon Foundation that works on health, education, and infrastructure in rural areas of Karnataka. She supports the Arogya Raksha Yojana and also established the Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre

KIRAN MAZUMDAR

in Bengaluru. She doesn't like the term "philanthropy", believing that it often provides temporary solutions rather than addressing the root cause of the problem. She prefers the term "compassionate capitalist", considering that properly applied business models can offer an ongoing foundation for sustainable social progress.

With a net worth of \$3.2 billion, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw is now among the top richest women in the world and is named as one of the most influential people in the world of science and technology (by Forbes). Not only did she grow Biocon to a stage where it is the 4th largest producer of insulin in the world, as a part of the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry in India and the US-India CEO Forum, As of 2010, she was named among TIME magazine's 100 most influential people in the world. She is on the 2011 Financial Times' top 50 women in business list. In 2014, she was listed as the 92nd most powerful woman in the world by Forbes. In 2015. She was voted global Indian of the year by Pharma Leaders Magazine in 2012. The list of her achievements and award is long, which proves that regardless of gender, financial, or any other obstacles if one has determination and perseverance, one can achieve all his dreams and be on the top.



A woman of simple living and high thinking



SUDHA MURTHY, Chairperson of the Infosys Foundation

Sudha Murthy, the chairperson of the Infosys Foundation, a brilliant engineer, homemaker, author and philanthropist is an eminent force of change in Indian society. A feminist in true spirit, Sudha Murthy has empowered women by awakening the women to get education, public hygiene, and equal rights. She has played an instrumental role in shaping a modern society that has a more inclusive approach towards poverty alleviation and uplifting standards.

A small-town girl from the state of Karnataka, Mrs. Murthy was a creative, logical, smart and curious child. She grew up to become an engineer when

girl's education was a rare scene. She was the first and only girl student in her college in Hubli. From having to use the men's washroom to facing a lot of flak for her bold career choice, this iron lady fought her way to the top. She was also the first female engineer to work at India's largest auto manufacturer, TELCO. Thus, it won't be wrong to say that this revolution of gender equality at workspace started with this strong-willed lady who wrote a letter to the chairman of TELCO complaining about the 'men only' gender bias at TELCO.

An idol for millions, Sudha Murthy is best known for her social work and simplicity that she maintains even after reaching a stature of global icon. In these glorious 70 years of her life, Sudha Murthy has accomplished many daunting feats with her exceptionally simple values and thinking. She never underestimated herself for being born as a woman, nor she ever let the norms of society shackle her high ambitions. Her remarkable contributions to the Indian society have won her the highest civilian honor in India the Padma Shri. Along with this, Mrs. Murthy has won many titles ornamenting her crown!

With an unabashed spirit and practical stance on society's illogical conventions, Sudha Murthy, a simple woman with extraordinary values, has changed the fate of many Indian women single-handedly. Today's modern culture of working women began with women like Sudha Murthy who broke the glass barriers and paved the path with such inspiring success stories!



LATA MANGESHKAR, Singer

The nightingale of India who broke the cage of womanhood!

Lata Mangeshkar, a young girl in long plaits and a plain sari, forged her name in golden letters in the history of the Indian music industry. She is one of the most versatile songstresses with a record of continuous hits for seven decades. The 'Nightingale of India' has sung more than 28000 evergreen melodies in over 36 regional Indian and foreign languages. Apart from delivering some of the best Bollywood hits across an array of genres ranging from romance to flirtation to separation to patriotism, Lata ji has also lent her voice to many devotional songs.



The legendary singer has been an awardee of the highest civilian award, Bharata Ratna (2001). She has also been crowned with the prestigious Padma Bhushan (1969), Padma Vibhushan (1999), three national awards and four Filmfare Best Female Playback awards. Lata Mangeshkar, the most revered singer across the globe is a woman of determination, willpower and commitment. Even after standing at the peak of success, Lata ji stays true to her roots, she worships her music and never wears her shoes when she sings.

She is an inspiration for a generation, a living exemplar of success that comes through hard work and devoted attitude. This iconic legend has not only broken the records of singing, but also shattered many societal barriers. In an era, when women were seen as a mere shadow of men, Lata ji dared to walk the path of life all by herself. She was a feminist in true terms who defied societal norms and decided to live life on her own terms.

Lataji is a true inspiration not only for women but for all. Her songs emote every tune of life but, in true sense, it is her journey through fame and success that has some of the most beautiful life lessons.



A roar of woman's global dominion

Priyanka Chopra Jonas, the world knows her as an actress, singer, investor, producer, influencer, author, humanitarian, philanthropist and a former Miss World. But beneath all the golden garbs is a simple Indian girl who dared to dream of walking her way from Barely to Boston in the red carpet. The dream was daunting and the journey exhilarating. She walked barefoot through the thorns of insecurities, self-doubt, humiliations, controversies and failures, getting stronger with every strike, just like a beautiful gem molding on each strike of a goldsmith!

PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS



The queen with many crowns, this bewitching brown beauty is the voice of women leading the way to global dominion. Her inspiring journey has shattered many social conventions that served as a barricade to a girl's success. The success story of this middle-class Indian girl has brought the much-needed change in the paradigm of perception. Priyanka Chopra Jonas reminded every woman that she is not just a daughter, wife, mother, friend or lover, she is a person of her own with a voice that needs to be heard!

Apart from stirring a tectonic shift in the image of women, Priyanka Chopra Jonas is playing an instrumental role in uplifting the lives of the underprivileged. Be it children or woman, she has spoken her mind on many platforms advocating for child education, talking about feminism and breeding a ground for equal opportunities. The UNICEF Global Goodwill Ambassador, Priyanka Chopra has been a major 'catalyst of change' in the making of a new world that's fair and just!



Sushmita Sen, the beauty of Bollywood, is known for her humbleness and inspiring journey. She is one of the first women who changed how we perceive beauty and associate it with fair skin. Her Miss Universe win, at the age of 18, was a cultural milestone that bashed colourism.

She was not only taller than most of her male counterparts but was dusky and too 'ambitious' for a girl. She was a combination that most people don't consider a winning mix. But despite all that, she went ahead and conquered every obstacle.

No doubt, she has been a part of some amazing films. From being the hot and gorgeous teacher in 'Main Hoon Naa' to being the loving wife and mother in 'Aarya', she has excelled in all roles.

But it was always hard for makers to fit an actress of that demure into roles. Precisely, Bollywood didn't know what to do with this towering beauty who was super talented. She still went ahead, took the choicest projects and did justice to them all!

Speaking of her personal life, she never waited for a man. If she wanted a diamond, she went and bought it herself. She was a feminist even before it was too cool to be one. She further broke conventions when she fell in love



SUSHMITA SEN, Actress Bollywood

The Journey From A Model to a Role Model

with a man much younger than her. It's evident that Sushmita Sen doesn't care about labels and stigmas. She says, "Either you match the side of my diamond, or you match the size of my heart". That's what is important to her, rather than societal constructs.

The actress also adopted two girls to provide them with a loving home and become a parent. She believes, "Just because a woman gives birth to a child that doesn't make her a mother. How she raises one, makes one".

She is truly a sweetheart, and her journey is nothing less than inspiring. From breaking conventions to setting up new ones, she has been successful in everything. We celebrate her courage, her dedication and most importantly, her humbleness.



Digitising for a greener, smarter planet

COO & Founder MobiQuest Mobile Technologies/ Paytm m'Loyal, An Interactive Media & eLearning specialist, listed amongst India's top 10 women in Digital Media

Sabina specializes in Customer Xperience Design & Architecting Interactive Digital Products & Solutions that are driven by insights & real time data to create the next level of digital engagement. For over 20 years she has been digitising solutions to save paper and plastic and helping build a greener planet.

A Gold Medalist and University Topper from AMU University with a Bachelors in Fine Arts and specialization in Applied Art. Sabina began her career with Print Media, transitioned from brush to mouse in 1997 when she began her Digital Media journey; creating her first award winning website for Telegraph India with Network Programs Inc. US.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Co-pioneering India's first multi award winning Mobile Loyalty Marketing Platform 'm'loyal'; 100+Mn users
- As Creative Head establishing WPP/Times Internet's

first online ad agency in India; BrandQuiver

- Managing India's largest and first Ice Cream Birthday Club for Nirula's as Visualizer
- Setting up eLearning & Digital Consulting Practice for FCS of over 150+ people as Creative Director & Head of eLearning and Interactive Communications.
- Creating 'Digital Centers of Excellence' for F500 companies; Best Buy, GE, Dominos & Canon amongst others
- Setting up of Corporate Online Universities
- Creation of more than 2000+hrs of multilingual Global eLearning content in over 18+ languages
- Designing & Architecting worlds one of the first 'Online Learning & Support Center' for the largest electronic retailer; Best Buy in 2001
- Design & successful rollout of Canons SFA; iCAN for Canon Europe & AsiaPac
- Rollout & Mgmnt of the world's largest healthcare Rewards program for Apollo India with 10Mn Users

Her vision is to leave behind a Digital Legacy that helps build smarter people and a Nation that "THINKS, SEEKS beneficial KNOWLEDGE, REFLECTS and ACTS responsibly"

She cherishes her professional associations & the teams she's mentored..and the journey continues!

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Changing our vision through Indian television

Ekta Kapoor, the quintessential Indian television queen, is undoubtedly the most successful producer, joint managing director, film producer, and Creative Director of Indian Television. This TV czarina has created and produced more than 130 superhit Indian soap operas that have changed the face Indian TV. Though she is famous for the catastrophic twist to the plots and supernatural scripts beyond imagination, her unforgettable characters have made a huge impact in drifting the course of ideologies. Her unforgettable characters have etched the picture of a modern woman as strong, caring, loving, ambitious and yet grounded to the roots.

Ekta Kapoor's serials have shattered many social stereotypes. Be it addressing the issues of marital rapes, domestic violence, physical abuse, eve-teasing or forging women as a bread-winner, crushing the issues of age and promoting their aspirations. She has played an instrumental role in establishing women as the real hero of a progressive society. Her unique presentation of a new vision has sculpted the solid foundation of a women-centric society.

This Queen of soap operas is a Padma Shree Awardee who has many jewels added to her crown. Her contribution to Indian television goes beyond entertainment, in a way, she has created an ecosystem in the male-dominated industry which stands for by, for and about the women. She painted the nuances of a woman's life, her sacrifices and her love, on a silver screen thus, bringing much-needed recognition to a woman's role in building a nation. This path-breaker taught her audience to celebrate the life of a woman like a true hero no matter whether she is a homemaker or a bread-earner. So, today when we say that India's perception of women has come a long way, this iron lady had forged that underlay!



The Inspiring Journey of Ssarita Siingh-A Woman who knows No Barriers

It's often said that people whobelieve in themselves get endless opportunities to explore. One such individual is Ssarita Singh, the CEO of Priyadarshini School, Pune. From commencing her career as a school teacher at the mere age of 16 to becoming the CEO of her school, she has indeed come a long way while inspiring millions of women on her journey.

But her journey wasn't easy. She had to go through numerous difficult situations like any other women today in the country. Born in a conservative Rajput family, she had her own share of restrictions, complexities and hurdles. She soon decided that her gender will be her power, not a handicap. Since then, she has smashed various barriers and came out strong every time.

Today, she is a self-made woman who broke all the conventions of society and achieved what she wanted to. She has initiated many unique ideas to improve the quality of education children receive in her institute.

She has invested her efforts and time to impart education through exciting yet challenging ways such as teaching





SSARITA SIINGH CEO of Priyadarshini School

aids, workshops, career counselling, counselling for both parents and students and much more.

Besides what she is doing in the education sector, what really impresses us is her ability to multitask. Be it her involvement with the Macmillan Publication as a consultant, the role of Advisory Panel Member at the Central Board of Film Certification or her role as an Advisor for Mr. Boney Kapoor's projects; she excelled all.

Throughout her life, she wore many hats and delivered beyond expectations in every role. Ssarita Singh says, "If I can inspire even one young girl to follow my dreams, I'd consider myself a real success", but we believe that there's not a single girl whom she hasn't inspired.

Women like her are role models to the upcoming generation because of their phenomenal work and the shackles that they have broken to become something. We celebrate her dedication, capability and strength.



An icon that rose form reel to real world!

Smriti Zubin Irani, the Honourable Textiles Minister of India, is an eminent actor turned orator whose success echoed in every household of this country. From portraying the role of a quintessential daughter-



SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI

in-law on-screen to rising to the role of a power leader, Smriti Irani's lesser-known strife with struggles is a complete handbook to success.

An 18-year-old girl from an Indian middle-class family packed her bags filled with dreams and left for the city that never sleeps. After a series of rejections and disappointments, she was still at ground zero but this time taxed with loans. Though she was born to be a star, this woman with iron-will didn't shy away from working as a waitress in Mac Donald's to make ends meet. She dealt with every adversity and turned each into an opportunity. With her determination, hard work and relentless attitude, fate had to flatter her!

Smriti Zuber Irani ended up getting through the auditions of India's first most successful TV serial and the rest is history. After reaching the pinnacle of success in Indian TV, she left it all to start fresh in Indian politics. Her political sprint too has been a saga of a rare meteoric rise.

Mrs. Irani is the ideal illustration of an Indian woman who leads the country, connects with the youth, works for its prosperity and uplifts the underprivileged. Her thundering voice pierces through the ears of thousands of women deafened by the patriarchal system. Be it promoting girl's right to education or awakening women to stand against violence, Smriti Zuber Irani, a middle-class Indian girl is changing the fate of woman and transforming the face of this country!



VANDANA LUTHRA



An Inspiring Women nurturing Beauty With Brains!

Vandana Luthra, founder, owner and co-chairperson of VLCC Group, one of the India's leading Beauty and Wellness Brand, is the lady who revolutionized the concept of beauty in India. She integrated the domains of fitness, health, nutrition and beauty into one brand and moulded the faux perception of perfection. This visionary gamechanger has not only empowered women by shattering the standards of beauty but also by levelling the ground for women employment. This indigenous brand is a women-dominated organization that trains, up-skills, hones and offers employment, self-reliance and financial independence to women.

A woman of staunch determination, Vandana Luthra made her entrepreneurial debut when her daughter was only 3 years old. With a toddler in one hand and a family in another, she built a multimillion-dollar company that has flagged its success in 30 countries. A Padma Shree awardee, Vandana has added many jewels to her crown. Some of her most noted titles are 'Amity Woman Achiever Award, 2006' 'Rajiv Gandhi Women Achiever 2008', 'Women Leaders in India Forum in 2009'. She has been listed as one of the 100 most powerful Indians in 2009 by Indian Express.

Vandana Luthra is an exemplar of success that comes with hard work, determination and never dwindling faith. With her entrepreneurial success roaring across the cities and villages, she is an inspiration that has awakened many women to find their wings and fly high.







A role model for the modern man and woman!

Kiran Bedi, the first-ever woman to join the Indian Police Service (IPS - 1972), is a star social activist who has played an instrumental role in reshaping many facets of the country. From implementing prison reform in India's largest prison cell of Tihar to fighting against Drug Abuse and Domestic Violence, Kiran Bedi has craved her own path in a rock-ribbed road where no woman ever dared to walk, leaving a trail of footsteps for others to follow. Breaking the barriers of social conservatism, she brought hope and light into the lives of women in the country.

Hailing from a middle-class Indian family, Kiran Bedi worked her way to the top with courage and confidence. From being an outstanding student at school to becoming one of the greatest civil servants, her journey was not easy, especially walking at par with the men who enjoyed a position of entitlement. With sheer dedication and perseverance, she worked hard to uplift the Indian society. She founded two non-

KIRAN BEDI





governmental organisations (NGOs) and she has been actively involved in women empowerment programs, community development programs and prison reforms. Her extraordinary feats for the society have won her many accolades including an UN Medal!

Kiran Bedi's name roared on the front page of tabloids in the times when the Indian society was still not acquainted with the idea of an independent working woman. Her fearless attitude and resolute determination made her an icon of heroism. She has inspired several women to pursue a career in the paths that were once thought unsuitable for women. Thus, it won't be wrong to say that this iron lady revolutionized the role of women in the Indian society!





MARY KOM, Boxing Champion

The Inspiring Journey of India's Boxing Champion

Have you ever thought of living your dreams rather than just running behind them? This is what India's boxing champion, Mary Kom, did. She not only took every single effort to make her dreams come true but brought them to life.

Beginning her journey from a remote village in Manipur to becoming the queen of the boxing ring, Mary Kom is no less than a role model. She is the only Indian woman boxer to qualify for the 2012 Summer Olympics, where she won a Bronze medal.

Born in a poor family, she started helping her family in farming. She used to play a variety of sports but never boxing. Only when the saw Manipuri boxer Dingko Singh win gold at the Asian Games in the year 1998, Mary was convinced to take up boxing. But opting for a sport that was considered 'masculine' wasn't easy. Needless to say, she wasn't the one to be discouraged. Today, her success is open and visible to all.

She even embraced motherhood during her journey. Being a mother of three, she was still able to manage things. Mary Kom showed how becoming a mother does not restrict you to pursue your dreams but gives you the power to follow them.

She has indeed seen a tough time. Mary says, "For a large part of my career, I had no sponsors. I have even, on occasion, paid for my travel to participate in competitions and camps". Her record is proof that she has been a champ in the ring, but the title is even more fitting considering her hardships.

Her journey has been so inspiring that director Omung Kumar came up with Mary Kom's biography where Priyanka Chopra played the boxer's role.

Mary Kom is not only a five-time World Amateur Boxing Champion but an embodiment of women empowerment and an example of invincible spirit. We are proud to have her representing India.

An unbridled definition of courage and beauty!

Laxmi Agarwal, an eminent social activist and motivational speaker, is the braveheart molded by the darkness of unfathomable physical and mental trauma of losing oneself to the horrendous crime of acid attack. From losing hope, faith and the very desire to live, to emerging as a rock of

support for millions, Laxmi's rollercoaster ride is the quintessential definition of dare, dreams and heroism. She is an embodiment of inspiration, a roar of change and an icon for every woman, who smashed the societal norms of beauty just by the drop of her dupatta.

Laxmi Agarwal, in true sense, is the phoenix who rose from the ashes and etched a path crushing many conventions. She has played an instrumental role in banning open acid sales in the country, spearheading the campaign from the front. She has





LAXMI AGARWAL

also paved the path for employment of acid attack victims. She has been crowned by many priced jewels like **International Women of Courage Award** received from Michelle Obama, Women Achiever Award, NDTV Indian of the year. Laxmi is not only a shining role model for the victims of acid attacks, but she is a roar on behalf of every woman who feels strangled by the faux standards of society when it comes to beauty or who is unwinged by the fears of victim-blaming. Laxmi Agarwal's undaunted spirit teaches us to break free from stereotypes. Her inspiring story of heroism is a ray of light at the end of a very long dark tunnel.





PRIYA ANAND DAKLE Co-Founder & Chairperson of Smt. Madibai Sardarmal Dakle School

Nurturing business, Fostering young minds

Mrs. Priya Anand Dakle, Co-Founder & Chairperson of Smt. Madibai Sardarmal Dakle School, Sanjan and partner at Dakle Industrial Plastics, is an educationist, entrepreneur and philanthropist. She is the girl next door, a wife, a daughter and a daughter-in-law who dared to redefine the role of an Indian woman in the male-monopolized world of business. Awarded with many prestigious titles like 'Social Entrepreneur 2020' and nominated for the Education Hero of the Year, 2020, Mrs. Priya Anand Dakle is planting the seeds of big dreams in the interiors of India.

A woman of iron spirit, Mrs. Priya Anand Dakle joined Smt. Madibai Sardarmal Dakle School when her father-in-law, the founder of the school was ready to lock its doors. Operating an affordable qualitative English Medium School in the Village of Sanjan was like speaking in a language no one understands. The parents were averse to the idea of English education as they had always seen it as a highly expensive facility which was a very high hit on the pockets of small-town people.

It was Mrs. Dakle's stone-willed determination and relentless efforts that stirred the heart of every parent. From recording zero admissions for a year to reaching a strength of 150 plus students, Mrs. Priya Anand Dakle is the dynamo nurturing young minds of rural India. From ensuring best-in-class education facilities to fostering all-round development of the kids, this realworld leader is sculpting the skills of young India.

With a knack for turning dust into gold, Mrs. Dakle's business acumen and strategic management have also helped the company Dakle Industrial Plastics mark new milestones. She has played an instrumental role in transforming this industry into a world-class manufacturer that flaunts a black book of multinational clients such as Bayer, Unilever Corporation, Fosroc & Syngenta. The company is also serving some of the prestigious Government projects.

Walking shoulder to shoulder with her husband Mr. Anand Maganlal Dakle, partner and backbone of Dakle Industrial Plastics, she worked on the planning and execution of a very prestigious 500 cubic metre tanks at the new Maldivies International Airport including installation and commissioning of the tanks. She also added the glorious success of planning and executing the first ocean fish farming project in Sri Lanka aptly handling the complete supply and installation of fishing tanks seamlessly.

A leader in true spirits, Mrs. Priya Anand Dakle has not only transformed the fate of the school and company, but also changed the lives of people she crossed paths with. Be it ensuring 100 per cent payment to her teaching staff during the COVID crisis or waiving off the fees of her students during the pandemic, providing quality education to the children of her employees or assuring healthcare protection to her staff, Mrs. Priya Anand Dakle is an embodiment of inspiration that the young girls from remote India look upon.

MARCH 2021 WOMEN POWER

The star wrestler breaking society's conservative barriers



BABITA KUMARI PHOGAT, Wrestling

Babita Kumari Phogat, the gold medallist in Common Wealth Games, hails from the first family of wrestling in India. Being born in a time and place, when girl child was seen as a bane, the Phogat sisters had to wrestle their way to uproot this perception. For the Phogats, it was not just a fight in the court, but they had to break through many conservative shackles and hostility of the society. With an unflinching faith and undeterring dedication, Babita Phogot has not only made her father and guru Mahavir Phogat proud by winning gold for the country, but she has stood tall as an inspiration for many young girls especially who those hailing from rural India by etching her name in golden letters in the glorious books of achievements by the Indian woman.

Babita's wrestling journey began with a stunning performance at the 2009 Commonwealth Wrestling Championship. She won a gold medal in 51 kg freestyle wrestling event in the tournament held in Punjab, India. She continued her medal-winning streak with a silver medal at the 2010 Commonwealth Games, a bronze in 2013 Asian Wrestling Championships in New Delhi and a gold medal at the Commonwealth Wrestling Championship in 2011.

This wrestling star hails from a small town that was rooted in a patriarchal set-up where girls were meant to stay indoors and cover their curves with loose clothes, but the Phogat family broke these illusionary shackles put by the society. Despite all the harsh words and derogatory comments, Babita never stopped practicing. She ran around the wheat fields in shorts and lycra tops with cropped hair. The diet and exercise routine were equally strenuous, the bruises and bandages, the pain and aches, there was nothing stopping this Phogat girl from claiming her glory!

Dr. Anubha Singh, medical director of Shantah Fertility Centre, an awardee of multiple esteemed titles, is a renowned fertility specialist from India. She is one of the most sought-after professionals in her field who is helping India fight the epidemic of infertility with modern methods of assisted conception. Dr. Anubha Singh is also serving as a consultant in Reproductive Medicine and Assisted Conception. An Indian woman achieving such heights with sheer talent and effort is a ring of inspiration for many young girls of this country.

Dr. Singh flaunts a rich profile having 14 years of clinical experience and extensive training in Obstetrics & Gynaecology at reputed hospitals in London. With her hard work and dedication, she has built a solid base in the subject and is now helping Indian couples conceive. Today, Dr. Anubha Singh is a member of multiple medical associations in the country. She ensures the availability of the latest tools and equipment in the country to help couples with conception.

Her unflinching efforts are reflected in the significant success rate of the treatments provided at the IVF center. She has been awarded with Eba Global- Rose of Paracelsus Awards London, Quality Choice Price 2019- (Switzerland), Asia One-India's Greatest Brand-2018-2019, Trendersetter Top-30 (Powerbrand)

- EBA GLOBAL- ROSE OF PARACELSUS AWARDS LONDON 2019-20
- ESQR- QUALITY CHOICE PRICE 2019-(SWITZERLAND)
- ASIA ONE- INDIA'S GREATEST BRAND-2018-2019
- TRENDERSETTER TOP-30 (POWERBRAND)
- IEA THAILAND 2018
- BUSSINESS EXCELLENCE CERTIFICATE - THE BIZZ AWARD (AMERICA)



DR. ANUBHA SINGH Medical Director of Shantah Fertility Centre

A WOMEN IN POWER EMPOWERING HER TRIBE!



Thailand 2018, and Bussiness Excellence Certificate -The Bizz Award (America).

Along with quality, Dr. Singh strives to achieve affordability, she ensures prices are no restrictions for couples seeking assisted conception. She is also actively involved in organizing campaigns to raise awareness about the different techniques to resolve the problem of infertility.

Dr. Anubha Singh's fertility centre maintains the highest standards of hygiene and takes extreme precautions in storage and preservation of equipment. She makes sure to counsel each couple about healthy conceiving along with treatment. She has risen to become one of India's top doctors motivating many to follow her trail. Her roaring success in the field of fertility treatment has established this as a great career choice for women!

MARCH 2021 WOMEN POWER

FROM SAMOSA-SELLER'S DAUGHTER TO INDIA'S LEADING SINGER!



NEHA KAKKAR, Singer

The queen of Bollywood's billboard, Neha Kakkar writes the pitched-perfect story of rags to riches inspiring many to follow her suit. An ordinary young girl from a simple family, she was not born with a silver spoon, but with her grit, determination and hard work she climbed the glittery golden ladder of Bollywood to stand at the crest of name and fame. The diva has gained immense popularity through her unique voice and sensational songs. Name any chartbuster song of this decade and there is a fair chance that Neha Kakkar is the voice behind!

The crooner of chartbusters like Dilbar, Saki Saki and London Thumakda, the self-made had walked a rough road to achieve her dreams. At the age of 16, she auditioned in Indian Idol and years later she chairs the judging crown of the same show.

The journey from singing in jagratas with her parents and siblings to becoming one of India's leading playback singer, was definitely not easy, but her perseverance paved the way. The daughter of a samosa-seller has bloomed to become India's modern nightingale. Recently, the songstress shared a glimpse of her journey from growing up in a rented 1BHK to owning a lavish bungalow in the same city.

A young gullible girl coming from a humble background to becoming a hitmaker, Neha Kakkar's story has brought hope of success for many in careers that are considered as risky passion!



KRUPA DOSHI VP Marketing

Spicing up womanhood in the spice industry

Krupa Doshi, A woman of substance, who is on a journey to Spice up the global food platter. Krupa started her career as a child counselor & psychologist and was gradually drawn towards the family business of Spices.

Psychology ingrained, she was very keen to shoulder the responsibilities of Marketing in this family business. A zeal for reading between the lines and connecting dots was the vital ingredient she possessed for her current role apart from her passion for cooking.

In her journey so far with Tit-Bit Foods, her first attempt was to refurbish the brand logo to make it more appealing to its consumers and thus a young, fresh and energetic logo of Tit-Bit came to its existence.

Further to convey the unique selling proposition which

the brand offers, she worked hard on developing a tag line "Kaafi Hai", which means "Enough". Since Tit-Bit Spices are a mix of Wholesome spices, hence one doesn't need to add any other spice apart from Tit-Bit Blends to make a perfect recipe.

A young & dynamic Krupa Doshi, has changed a lot of perceptions within the organization. She is implementing internal branding within the organization, bringing in fresh thoughts through its work force and team building exercises. The work culture is gradually changing within the organization and heading towards achieving a common goal, as a strong team.

"Jain Chinese" is yet another mark of her achievements. Craving for innovation led her to recognize this trend of transformation happening in most of consumers towards No Onion No Garlic products, This was picking momentum in the market.

Relating this to her own religion, She suddenly thought of this unique idea of developing a product for sects like Jains, Swami Narayans & Vaishnavs, who do not prefer eating Onion & Garlic.

Instead of working on any common No Onion No Garlic product, she opted for this challenging product range "No Onion No Garlic Oriental Mixes" which one cannot even think of making, without these core ingredients.

In her commitment for safe food, towards the community, She developed this unique range of "Oriental Mixes" which apart from No Onion No Garlic is also without any preservatives & colors.

This product range has added a lot of Weight in popularizing the brand and the organization to a great extent.

Constantly striving to offer its consumers, unique food experiences, has engaged her in yet another product development to be launched soon and many more to keep following.

We at Tit-Bit Foods (India) Pvt. Ltd. always salute our women power within & outside the organization and work towards their progression.

As part of our CSR activity, we have been engaged in developing & assisting women entrepreneurs to sell our spices during season to make a handsome earning for themselves, by just working for 4 months during the year. This has gained a lot of popularity for the brand and confidence and self esteem for the members associated.

We pledge to remain humble and constantly work towards betterment of society apart from Tantalizing the taste buds, the Tit-Bit way.



Mrs. BHUPINDER GOGIA Principal at Sat Paul Mittal School

A principal is often seen as someone who 'puts out fires'. While this may be true at times, we all would agree that a principal's role is pivotal. Many take up the job for the love of children while others rejoice promoting collaboration and nurturing relationships among students, staff, families and community leaders. "For me it is the opportunity to be a catalyst of change, to nourish a learning environment that enables innovation, collaboration and growth", speaks Mrs. Bhupinder Gogia, Principal of Sat Paul Mittal School, a school with a difference.

She took charge as the principal of Sat Paul Mittal School in 2010 and has since then has transformed the educational landscape in Ludhiana with her farsightedness and expertise. "When I joined as the school leader, I immediately realized that the need of the hour was to give more creative freedom to my teachers. This is something I had learnt from my mentor", says the dynamic leader. She believes that being an educationist is a 'karmic job' which provides one with an opportunity to be a vehicle to drive change. She was determined to act, after all, she was the school leader. "I always wanted to provide

"Being a catalyst of change is the biggest joy of Mrs. Bhupinder Gogia's life as a Principal at Sat Paul Mittal School"

students with access to voices, people and cultures that better reflect the broader world in which we live" expounded Mrs. Bhupinder about her ideology on progressive educational reforms. She saw in every opportunity a chance to provide transformational feedback, collaborate with families and community organizations, and positively impact a student's academic trajectory. She believed that one of the primary responsibilities of any school is to prepare children for future and that the aim of education is to help a student grow. She staunchly advocated implementing student and faculty continuous improvement programs focused on raising academic levels of students, improving educators' teaching skills, and encouraging community involvement. Ludhiana is a tier two city in Punjab and if students couldn't go out and get exposure, she wanted technology to bring the world to them. The school partnered with Microsoft and became a Microsoft Showcase school. Being a learning enthusiast herself with a rich academic profile, she also added another feather to her cap recently by becoming a Microsoft Certified Educator as well as a Microsoft Showcase School Leader.

Mrs. Bhupinder also recognizes the delight she gets from working with the faculty, 'especially when we're problem solving or discussing some new, innovative ideas that they want to put in their classrooms', she added. Relishing her role as a Principal, she owes her success to the strong support of her family, the immense trust bestowed on her by the School Management and the committed and dedicated staff, who is willing to learn and adapt to the changing educational landscape. She has had a phenomenal impact on all the people she has met and helped them make their lives worth living and loving. Under her leadership, Sat Paul Mittal School has won innumerable awards both in academic and non-academic areas. She has led the school to number 'One' position in Punjab and'amongst the top 50 schools in India'.

"I envision a world ripe with equal opportunities for children to grow and evolve and contribute to the society as global citizens", she concludes.

Choose the glasses through which you see your life!

Losing my father at a very young age not only propelled me to be independent and self-reliant but also prepared me to brave the hardships in life. I began my professional career while still in college as an intern in an advertising agency and then moved onto the corporate sector, gaining diverse experience across industries. I have held varied functional roles in different sectors spanning Hospitality, Wellness & Lifestyle, FMCG, Consumer Durable and Education & Technology. As a lifelong learner with a constant desire to experience new things, my interest in many different areas helped me in my transition to a new industry every time I switched to a new role. I always look back at my failures and struggles as learning opportunities. I remember the time when I was tasked with handling a 'Reality TV show' spread across 10 different cities over a period of 3 months though at first I was extremely nervous but I decided to take that as a challenge to deliver while still learning 'on the job'. Or the time when I had organised my first big international event with 500 distributors from the country and everything which was supposed to go wrong had gone wrong during that time - international flights were cancelled, rains wreaked havoc on the outdoor event venue, products were seized by the excise department and finally the brand ambassador changed her schedule at the last minute – it took all my wits to pull the event together successfully - a nearly unimaginable feat which was acknowledged by the global team as well.

On the personal front, I've always adapted my work to my life instead of the other way around and tried to maintain a positive balance between the two. This wouldn't have been possible without a strong familial support system -my husband and mom who have been a pillar of strength through various stages of my



life. Whether it was travelling abroad for work 6 months after the birth of my son, receiving the Best Employee Award In Indonesia while my father got admitted in ICU, fighting a legal case against a corporate for non-payment of dues (and winning the case) or the time when I nearly decided to give-up after a severance notice – my family stood by me through thick and thin.



SHIKHA GIRGLA

Marketing & Communication Professional and also an avid fitness enthusiast, amateur writer, traveller, part-time community social worker, volunteer at People for Animal, honorary member of citizen welfare association and student of life!

I have experienced many instances of discrimination, biases, harassment at work but one thing which actually helped me to stay afloat was my preservance and the confidence in myself. Giving up was never an option for me. From doing odd jobs since I was 17 to buying a car at 19 and owing a house by the beach a decade later – my life has been a sum total of the choices I have made over the years. Sometimes I feel we women give up on our dreams too easily, we just need to ask more from ourselves and hang-in there a bit longer. I know it is easier said than done, but trust me when you will look back on your achievements, all your sacrifices will be worth it.

See your struggles as opportunities to become stronger, better, wiser and more resilient.

Lastly, don't make your life all about your work. Develop a hobby / passion and reserve your weekends & evenings to fulfil them. Most importantly, choose the glasses through which you see life. You can choose to take it all seriously, or you can choose to see the lighter side of it And as often as you can remind yourself that life itself has a sense of humour. Founder & CEO of NextGen Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. Dr. Nagma strongly feels and believes that learning new things is the ever-going progress and also emphasises on smart work which is not short of hard work, dedication and complete efforts. Today, with her determination to deliver the best of services and solutions which are smart and futuristic, NextGen Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. has become the most preferred brand for clients in the Biotechnology industry.

NextGen Life Sciences delivers true to its long-standing name and reputation in the Biotechnology industry when it comes to providing high end and best in class solutions for testing equipment, reagents, kits and instruments, and also other highly sought-after tools and materials for conducting medical research and other related tasks. With their network and tries spread around the globe, NextGen truly redefines standards of service along with highest delivery standards as they make sure their clients receive the highest quality products for their research and testing or other purposes and also the desired testing equipment and machines, etc. delivered at their doorstep in pristine condition and under the given stipulated time. NextGen with its very high satisfied client base has earned an impeccable reputation for their promising service quality, standards, the quality of their products and not to forget their best-in-class and highly efficient delivery system. All of the above combine to form the brand and make NextGen one of the leaders in the Biotechnology industry and also one of the most respected in their space and among the competition. Dr. Nagma with her team is creating new benchmarks in the field of biotechno which can actually inspire lot of aspiring women entrepreneurs in the country to pursue th in the field of biotechnology.

DR. NAGMA ABBASI Founder & CEO - NextGen Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd



DR. TANIA NIJHAWAN Director, Nijhawan Group

The strongest foundation a person has is their education, but it's not always the key to success. The two fundamentals of living the life of your dreams are to be passionate for the work you do and to constantly adapt in this fast-paced world with alacrity. Dr. Tania Nijhawan follows this dictate wholeheartedly and has successfully managed the schism between her education and passion. She has done her Bachelors in Dental Science (BDS) with a specialization in Aestheic and Cosmetic Dentistry, despite being a Doctor by education she has leaped into the profession of being a successful business woman.

Today, Dr. Tania Nijhawan is the Director of Nijhawan Group, an institution standing tall for more than 40 years, with a presence in over 100 countries. Nijhawan Group consists of one of the leading travel conglomerates of India with the largest B2B portal in South East Asia.

In a short span of time Dr. Tania Nijhawan has carved a name for herself in the industry. Her secret she says is, "to create a synergy between what I love to do, and my work.

Under her leadership she founded 'Fork N Spoon', a new wave catering service that has handled more than 1000 events in a short span of three years. The innovative and enthusiastic culinary artists are constantly involved in managing up to 5000 people in one event. 'Fork N Spoon' has been awarded the *Most innovative Caterers* (2015) by Wedding Mantra, *India Hospitality Award* in 2016 (Best Catering Company) and *Ravishing Design Awards* (2017).

She has also founded **'Nuts for** Us', A luxury retail brand which provides premium dry fruits from around the globe and pure oils. With increasing global scrutiny of healthcare & nutrition her brand builds confidence by providing the best quality of produce in the market. As a working mother and doctor I understand the of nutrition for women. Menstruation and childbirth tend to drain our bodies of nutrients, dry fruits also known as 'superfoods' since time eternal, can prevent and alleviate many diseases."

