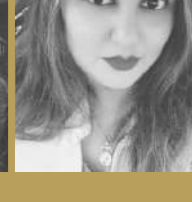
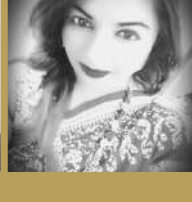



THE INDIAN ACHIEVER'S CLUB

99 WOMEN ACHIEVERS OF INDIA

2020 EDITION I





We take this opportunity to Thank our Beloved Environment Minister **Hon. Shri Aditya Thackeray** for supporting us in our Dream Project of planting 75 lakh trees in Mumbai Metropolitan Region celebrating the 75th Year of Indian independence.

Thanks to the Forest Department of Maharashtra for facilitating our Plantation Drive and **The Rotary Club of Dahanu** to help us Plant trees.

All the Members at **The Indian Achiever's Club** together would join this initiative and we will continue to create many such opportunities which will enable non-members to participate in the Mega Plantation Drive.

We together shall ensure we fight Climate Change and make Mumbai a better place to live.

Please spread the message with your friends to plant trees online on **www.eplantations.in**

Special thanks to



Environment Minister
Hon. Shri Aditya Thackeray



Forest Department of Maharashtra



Dist : 3140

Rotary Club of Dahanu



ABOUT

Established in 1966 as Sahitya Bharti Trust, was then one of the biggest networking and socialising clubs in the city. The Trust was a collaborative effort by three aspiring entrepreneurs – Shri Shirish Mehta, Shri Jaivadan Takhtawala and Shri R.R Sheth, who translated the concept of networking clubs by having over 5000 members at once. The sole idea behind initiating this club was networking for businessmen and professionals to help them bring out better thoughts and strategies which in turn helped them to do better socially as well as professionally.

Today 54 years later, a team of like-minded new age entrepreneurs and professionals have come together giving a modern facelift to the networking club. This 2.0 version of the club is taking all the activities online, making available for its members who are spread across various regions of India and abroad. The initiative is in its new avatar with a modern approach, while keeping the ideology of appreciating the achievers in the society. We call the organisation – The Indian Achiever's Club.

Chaired by Harsh Vaidya an ecopreneur by profession with over 15 years of experience in brand communication and entrepreneurship, the organisation has a managing committee which includes a team of highly experienced entrepreneurs, strategists, professionals and experts in the field of creativity.

The main purpose of the club is to recognize the efforts of achievers, who have sailed through numerous social baises and today have established themselves in their respective fields. The club has come up with various initiatives which will bring the unsung achievers from around the country on a platform, where they can share their journey in front of the world.



TM

99 WOMEN ACHIEVERS OF INDIA

WINNERS 2020

THE INDIAN ACHIEVER'S CLUB



PRERNA MAKHARIAA

ENTREPRENEUR
STYLE PRER
& PET JEWELLERY



JALPA H VITHALANI

ENTREPRENEUR,
GALLERIST
& ARTIST



POONAM SONI

FOUNDER &
JEWELLERY DESIGNER
POONAM SONI SIGNATURE
LINE PVT LTD



MS. MALINI AGARWAL

FOUNDER & CREATIVE
DIRECTOR
MISSMALINI ENT.



PRIYA DUTT RONCON

TRUSTEE NARGIS
DUTT FOUNDATION
EX MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENT



LINA ASHAR

CO-FOUNDER
KORROBOREE



PRIYANKA KHURANA

MANAGING DIRECTOR
NOMURA, MUMBAI



RACHEL GOENKA

FOUNDER AND CEO
THE CHOCOLATE
SPOON COMPANY



KADHAMBARI. C

CHIEF ADMIN
OFFICER, ISPP



ZAHRA JANI

LIFESTYLE & PARENTING
INFLUENCER
@BEINGMOMANDBEYOND



VARADA KULKARNI

SOCIAL WORK
PRACTITIONER
& MOTIVATIONAL
SPEAKER



MEHA S LAHIRI

CO-FOUNDER, COO &
CFO
RECITY NETWORK INDIA



MAHERA GOEL

PRINCIPAL
FAZLANI L'ACADEMIE
GLOBALE



PAYAL BARBHAYA

IMAGE CONSULTANT
IMAGEBYPAYALSUREKHA



SHREYAA SUMI

INTERNATIONAL
MODEL, PAGEANT
WINNER, ACTOR



NEELAM KUMAR

BESTSELLING AUTHOR,
INSPIRATIONAL
LIFE SKILLS COACH



YUVIKA ABROL

MOM COMEDIAN
YUVI.SAYS



DR. ANKITA SINGH

SENIOR VP &
GLOBAL HEAD OF
HR/CHRO - CIGNEX



DR. YATRI THACKER

HOMEOPATHIC WELLNESS
PHYSICIAN, MENTAL
HEALTH EXPERT



NIDA CHAKRABORTY

TECHNO PRODUCER,
DJ, PODCAST
HOST, ACTOR



RESHMA MEHTA

ENTREPRENEUR
RE.MEH, TRIYA ZIKHARA,
TRAVEL COMPANIES



SHUBHRA AGGARWAL

BRAND STRATEGIST
OFFBEET MEDIA AND
COMMUNICATIONS



NEHA BANSAL

FOUNDER
'ASIANISM RETOLD'



HIMALI VYAS NAIK

VOCALIST,
PERFORMER



DR. SANDHYA ADVANI

FOUNDER & PRINCIPAL
CONSULTANT
POSH SYSTEMS.COM



DR. SHAULI MUKHERJEE

DIRECTOR
ADAMAS UNIVERSITY



MALLIKA SEN

FINANCIAL
CONSULTANT
MAX LIFE INSURANCE



DR. SARIKA KULKARNI

CO-FOUNDER
RAAH FOUNDATION



AARATI SAVUR

EDUCATIONIST & CEO
PARISAR ASHA



HETAL DOSHI

FOUNDER
PEACHH AND PAPRIKA



DEEPA MAHESH

LIFE &
LEADERSHIP COACH
POORNA WELLBEING



KAREN TERRY RAZA

ENTREPRENEUR,
SOCIAL ACTIVIST,
FASHION MODEL,
SOCIAL INFLUENCER



YOGINI KUNAL SHARMA

SPIRITUAL &
ALCHEMICAL PAINTER
AUMYOGINI,
DIVYA AAKRUTI



PRERNA MAKHARIAA

ENTREPRENEUR

STYLE PRER & PET JEWELLERY

*Entrepreneur, Luxury & Jewellery Influencer,
Jewellery Advisor*

*India's first jewellery influencer with 18 years of experience
in the gems and jewellery industry*

*Jewellery advisor with specializing in bridal jewellery
trousseau curation*

*Successfully founded India's first bespoke jewellery brand
for pets called Pet Jewellery*

*During the covid 19 pandemic initiated an endeavor to
support budding jewellery talent across the globe,
#supportjewellerydesigners
#supportindianjewellerydesigners*

*Bestowed as 40 under 40 top proud women boosting
economy during covid pandemic by The Ceo Story*

 @styleprer  @petjewelleryin  9820055544



*Prerna has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

After taking formal training in gems & jewellery from GIA, GII and SNDT, I started my career in the gems and jewellery industry in 2003 with designing and manufacturing jewellery for which I won a few awards and accolades. Destiny had something else in store for me and I started influencing jewellery and luxury from 2015, becoming India's first jewellery influencer.

In 2019 I also founded India's first bespoke jewellery brand dedicated to pets called Pet Jewellery.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

While designing and styling jewellery from 2003 - 2014, while researching online I would find only international jewellery influencers and bloggers. There wasn't any body influencing jewellery in India. Striking the opportunity I switched careers and took up jewellery influencing and advising full time as my career.



HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

This definitely feels like an achievement and I am Thankful to Indian Achievers Club for recognising my work and journey, however every achievement seems only like a beginning and there is yet a long way to go.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY? HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?

When I look back and compare my life from a jewellery designer v/s a jewellery influencer, it has had a 360 degree change. The life of an influencer isn't as easy and glamorous as it looks online. Along with recognition, glamour we also invite early morning shoots, maintaining a smile no matter how long & tough a day one has had, erratic sleep hours, red eye flights etc. Even if I am on a holiday, curating content is playing continuously in my mind and I think I land up working almost 365 days.

The pandemic has allowed me to spend quality time with my family despite me curating content and working from home. It now has made me realise that family and health comes first followed by everything else. Everyday I try at least having 1 meal with my parents and spending at least 30 mins giving them undivided attention. Beginning April 2021, I have started taking a complete digital detox on 1 sunday of every month.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

During the pandemic in 2020 I initiated a not-for-profit endeavor to support the budding jewellery talent across the globe. We give them a platform on our social media to showcase their jewellery.

Being recognised as of the influential women in the Indian diamond industry to watch out for by Natural Diamond Council in March 2021. Recognised as "A woman of influence" by the World Diamond Council in 2021.

As an initiative from Pet Jewellery we raised funds with Ketto India and Vikram Phadnis to feed stray animals during the pandemic.

Hosting a book signing for Francesca Cartier Brickell, descendant of the Cartier family in Mumbai and selling hundreds of copies of the book. My jewellery being selected as one of the top 3 jewellery pieces from India curated for Swarovski's gemvision across the globe.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

Just like every human, I have my highs and lows. If things go south for some reason and I'm unable to handle the situation then, I simply take a break for a few hours or minutes, gather myself and bounce back with double the energy.

My passion keeps me going and that has been my biggest driver.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

1. Always be innovative and adapt to innovation.
2. Work is worship for me, I don't compromise on that no matter where on planet earth I am.
3. Respecting the team you work with is very important.
4. As young minds begin to join the work we need to respect and encourage their thoughts and creativity. Working in an old school fashion might not always work.
5. Set small achievable targets with bigger goals. One step at a time and you will be there.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

1. Ensure that every human has a job and a source of income.
2. Equality for every human being - no gender, age, racial etc discrimination
3. A process where all the waste can be recycled and not does not harm the environment or animals

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Patience is the key, Rome was not built overnight. There will be times when you feel let down or criticized, and it's ok. Look at the bigger picture and bounce back with double the energy.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

Being a part of the biggest tree plantation drive in India gives a feeling of contentment where I have been able to do my little bit for saving the environment. More the people joining this awareness drive, the better it will be for us and our surroundings.

In my opinion, planting trees may not be the only solution to global warming and climate change but it is one of the steps towards bringing that change.



JALPA H VITHALANI

ENTREPRENEUR, GALLERIST, ARTIST, CURATOR, FARMER,
SOCIAL WORKER & RECONNECTIVE HEALING
PRACTITIONER

Conscious Changemaker, Artistic Businesswoman

Was appointed on the APEX Body of APEDA by Shri Kamal Nath – the then Minister of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India. She was the one of the two women in a Boardroom of 100 men making key decisions and sanctioning projects for various sectors in the country

She was among the pioneers to bring Greenhouse Technology to India over two decades ago. Represented world renowned Dutch Breeder Schreurs as their exclusive agent for roses in India – and introduced top of the line varieties trending worldwide to Indian growers from our exclusive Research & Development facility

Represented the largest Auction House in Europe, Flora Holland in India (they had never appointed a company at the helm in such a position) and was training other floriculture units in India on how to package and export their products

Founded a niche art gallery – Cosmic Heart Gallery has partnered with several organisations and hosted 200 events related to art, culture and music in a short span of 8 years, with a vision to create a world without borders

Women Empowerment Principles Leadership Award by AsiaOne 2020–21 & United Nations Development Corporation

Saraswatibai Dadasaheb Phalke Women Achievers National Award for Business & Social work Dec 2020

BPW International Power to Make A Difference – International Award May 2021



*Jalpa has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

@jvcosmicheart

9821097993

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

My journey has been full and multi-dimensional. When I look back at it, I am grateful for all that I have experienced and done, and I owe this to my ability of being spontaneous and always going with the flow. From being an active part of the family business in logistics & aviation, bringing rose cultivation & greenhouse technology to India, practicing alternate healthcare and being amongst the few Reconnective Healing practitioners in the country, engaging in philanthropic work that focuses on women empowerment and opening a one-of-a-kind art gallery that promotes the idea of a world without borders through art, music and culture.



HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

My career has been dynamic and has evolved with time. Everything I do is an extension of who I am. I grew up in a business family, so making decisions for The Global Group comes naturally. I was intrigued with the creative arts as a child and that translated in the Cosmic Heart Gallery. I underwent Reconnective Healing, and it had a profound impact. I wanted to bring this to other people and became a practitioner. Following instinct and doing what makes me happy is why I do what I do. It has all come from a place of passion and complete joy. It never felt like work, it felt like fulfilling my life purpose.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

I feel honoured to be amongst this group of people who are changing the world and making it better. It feels great to be acknowledged for the work that brings me joy. And I would say it also instills in me a deep sense of responsibility to keep doing what I am doing.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY? HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?

With the world changing, my day is spent at home with family and connecting with friends, working professionals and mentors virtually. I spend some quality time with myself through my hobbies of dance and art. The pointings of Mooji help me to centre myself during this time away from the real world. When it comes to work-life balance, the best thing about doing what you love and surrounding yourself with people like family is that the balance comes in automatically.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

Cosmic Heart Gallery from India was one of the 16 international galleries invited to showcase their work at Art Bahrain Across Borders 2019 which was held under The Patronage of Her Royal Highness, Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King of Bahrain, President of the Supreme Council for Women. The gallery commemorated two Indian artists with a flair for contemporary, abstract art; synonymous with Art Bahrain Across Borders' theme. Both the artists' work was widely appreciated and Natasha's paintings are also with the Royal families in Bahrain.

I represented India as President, (Business & Professional Women) BPW South Mumbai at The United Nations Headquarters in New York at CSW62 session on the Commission on Status of Women in 2018. It was a fabulous experience meeting changemakers from around the globe.

As the State Director for the NGO Humans for Humanity that works to upskill women and bring awareness towards better sanitation and hygiene, I have taken the WASH (Women Sanitation & Hygiene) project to the ground level in Maharashtra..



The project has covered 1.5 million women in India. I have been actively involved in conducting virtual cloth-pad-making workshops for women in slums during the pandemic; to make them self-reliant and earn a livelihood. We are promoting eco-friendly sustainable menstruation and producing & distributing cloth pads. There is a great sense of fulfillment in working with women and girls and we have covered several villages and rural and urban slums, breaking the taboos, educating them on nutrition, hygiene and self worth at large.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

I am of the belief that you cannot get attached to the idea of success or the path to success. Every experience & learning shapes you. So, if something were to go wrong, I tend to take a step back and look at the bigger picture. With this eagle vision, one usually comes up with a solution or a sense of surrender. If you have given your best to a project or an opportunity, then there are no regrets. I surround myself with people who collaborate and come up with creative solutions, this truly is a big asset.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

My mantra is to follow my passion. Recognize opportunities, act on them instantly and leverage them to drive success. Always merge action and innovation in everything that you do. And constantly nurture relationships.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

I would erase Covid from the face of the Earth! Eradicate violence against humanity in every sphere. And the farmer in me would change the current environmental distress the planet is facing.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Follow your passion and bring your uniqueness & creativity in your work after you transcend the learnings. It is no longer being associated with your work, but becoming it. Always work within your set of values & principles and focus on giving your best. One must take risks in life. If you limit yourself, you will never reach your full potential. So go out there, enjoy yourself and prove your mettle.



HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

For a kisan, this is an absolute delight! Being a farmer, there is a strong connection with Mother Earth. We must nurture the planet and environment and this is what the pandemic has also taught us. As the Vice President of the Western India Floriculture Association, I have actively been involved with farming since 1998 and we must plant as many trees as we can as a community together. I work closely with BPW International on several environmental projects that are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN. I hope that as a community we will encourage more people to grow their own food and focus on health in a broader way. This has spilled into my endeavors.



POONAM SONI

FOUNDER AND JEWELRY DESIGNER
POONAM SONI SIGNATURE LINE PVT LTD

*JEWELRY ARTIST, FOUNDER PSSL, PROMOTER OF
ARTISANS ON NATIONAL LEVEL*

*Pioneered unique jewellery and changed the mindset for designer
jewellery in India*

*Represented India among global designers at Eco Art charity of
Prince Albert 2 of Monaco*

*Received patronage from the Spanish government and
authentication for the Collection "Gaudi Revived" and the debeers
millennium award 2000 by Kriti Soni*

Listed as India's leading luxury designer in the Black Book library

*The most awarded designer of the country and listed in more than
2 dozen Coffee Table Books*

@poonamsoni.soni

9870001023



*Poonam has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

Three decades ago in 1989 I started a modest jewelry business from home. I loved designing , aesthetics and jewelry and had a clear vision to create the kind of unique 'one of a kind 'pieces , I would love to buy and wear. India had fabulous artisans but they were restricted into creating prototypes. I wanted to bring a revolution in jewelry, do 'unheard of' things and create one of a kind Collection pieces. So I started with a modest capital, a small collection but introduced semi precious stones , shells , laces , leather and fabric in jewelry. They were colourful, bold and multidimensional. They created a sensation and my name spread by word of mouth. Post that I never looked back as I had succeeded in entering a very closed industry , broken the mindset of the Indian buyer and the media wooed me to write about this bold designer who created unabashedly a brand with her own name.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I loved accessories, jewelry and all things beautiful. I had eye for colours , detail , and a good sense of business as I had topped the Delhi University with a gold medal from the President of India. Friends liked my aesthetics and always asked me to create jewels for them and accessories as a favour. I did it joyfully but after that I decided to turn it into a profession. A profession which would be unique , a brand with exquisite jewels, packaging, store ambience , pampering and all the trappings of luxury a women loves. I wanted her to buy my jewels as a Collection piece and covet it and not as an investment to be cashed in during tough times.



My brand was all about custom designing , single price point and luxury. I introduced art in jewelry with miniature hand painted canvases of ace artist Laxman Shreshtha and fun art with Nawaz Modi Singhanian.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

Any appreciation and felicitation always feels good . It's been worth it ! is the first thought and ofcourse a lot of gratitude that my work was recognised. Thank you! This is a proud moment for me to be alongside so many women achievers.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY? HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?

I am an early riser as I want to do a lot and pack the maximum in a single day. I have a tremendous zest for life . My day starts with 7am Buddhist chantings for an hour. Post that orange juice, call my mother in California and then breakfast over TV news . Thrice a week I do a virtual workout , a combination of free style and Pilates. Then work calls and office time which these days is replaced by growth plans and structuring the organization better - which I struggled to do earlier for lack of time. The rest of the day is divided in my Buddhist activities , friends and my children. My 'me time' is also very important and I have learnt the art of a 10 minutes power nap in a heavily packed day full of accounts , production, customers , Buddhism , friends and family.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

31 years of journey and I have nothing to complain or want for. A customer appreciating my jewelry and loving me as a human being is what I treasure.

I have worked with Royalty , endorsed by Spanish , Tahitian and Indian governments. My pieces have been auctioned by Sothebys , written about by Christie's and Saffron art. I have featured in more than 20 Coffee table books ,listed in the Black Book library .Michael Kors discovered , endorsed and introduced me to Linda Fargo of Bergdoff and Goodman, the luxury store in New York . Harrods of London wooed me in 1992 and Marc Jamet of LVMH invited me to showcase at the Incredible India show in Paris. I collaborated with Lido, Prince Albert, Valentino, and Judith Leiber . My daughter Kriti recieved the Debeers Millennium award at the Louvre in Paris by Oppenheimer. The Tahitian government chronicled a magazine on me. We have received over a 100 awards including the Economic Times Business award and 100 global successful woman. BBC Jet flew down from London for a day to interview me for luxury and jewels.

The list is endless but what I am most proud of are the relations I have built over the years with clients , friends and people. We have a very special relation with all our clients and these bonds are our treasure!



HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

I am a very positive person. There is never a dead lock in life. The corona pandemic I utilized for my Buddhist activities - encouraging people more than ever . I revived my cooking skills , caught up on Netflix serials and bonded with friends. I enjoyed the break which I never had the liberty for. I feel water always continues to find a way no matter how many pebbles you put in its path.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Increasing friends and decreasing enemies is the surest way to success. I believe in my self and set my own path - I don't tread the path of negativity , jealousy and competition. I believe in respecting and valuing people . I follow my heart , enjoy my work with passion. I don't chase success. It discovered me.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

- (1) I would remove divisibility - Religion which divides
- (2) Equality for all and respect for every human being
- (3) Remove suffering, war and corruption

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Work on your own strength instead of eyeing the strength of others. Carve your own path and be true to yourself.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

Nature is a part of our lives and we have exploited it enough. I am truly happy to be able to give back even if its in a small way- to something which actually sustains life.

As an achiever I feel the only way to express gratitude is to protect the environment which sustains us . When you get you must give back - that is the formula of life and success.



MS. MALINI AGARWAL

FOUNDER & CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF MISSMALINI ENTERTAINMENT & MALINI'S GIRL TRIBE, AUTHOR AND TV HOST

Digital Influencer, TV Host, Author and Entrepreneur

Malini ranked #1 on IMPACT's 50 Most Influential Women in Media, Marketing and Advertising 2017, and has been recognized as one of the top business leaders to watch on Fortune India's 40 Under 40 List, GQ's 50 Most Influential Young Indians List and World Marketing Congress's 50 Most Influential Digital Marketing Leaders Listing

She has been awarded Cosmopolitan's Editors Choice Awareness Influencer of the year 2020 along with being named one of the Top 10 Young Businesswomen by CNBC-TV18 at the Young Turks Summit and the #1 Digital Influencer in the world on SERMO's Digital Influencer Index 2016


During the pandemic, Malini organised the #IgnoreNoMoreOnline movement to empower men and women to speak up against online harassment

Malini launched an app called Girl Tribe by MissMalini for women looking for a safe and uplifting space to connect with other women, away from the trolling and negativity of conventional social media



Ms. Malini has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

 @missmalini

 9619619494

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

I started my career as a backup dancer, but in 2000 I moved to Mumbai to join MTV India as their digital channel head. Later, I became a radio jockey and programming director and eventually, the digital content head at Channel [v] India. While I was working with radio, I had a gossip column called "Malini's Mumbai" to document all the fun experiences I was having in Bombay. Over time, I taught myself Photoshop, copywriting skills, and learned the most important lesson of my career: how to connect with people. I love this Japanese concept of "Ikigai" which means your true passion lies at the center of 4 things: what you love to do, what you're good at doing, what you can get paid to do, and what the world needs.

I am fortunate to have been able to make this work for me. Launching Girl Tribe by Malini was a personal and professional milestone. What started as a Facebook experiment to spread positivity, empathy, and kindness amongst 100 girlfriends in 2018, has now catapulted into an extraordinary community that is over 70k+ women strong, and growing each day.



HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

MissMalini.com blog was founded in 2008, perched on a couch, with one laptop, and was initially a hobby blog. Eventually, it became a gossip column, which was solely written by me.. These columns were then also published in a tabloid.

With an eye to make this blog more interesting and captivating, I left my job at Channel V and focused only on how to promote and grow my own blog, which no longer is just a "desi girl's diary", and has grown into India's biggest Bollywood news website which covers diverse topics!

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

It is a great honour to be selected amongst the top 99 achievers of India, especially since it is out of millions it really makes hard work worth it. And to this day, I still look back and still pinch myself that the journey and adventure that I have had, it means so much to me that it's been acknowledged even if it is 2021. This means that we should keep working hard and do what we are doing, and I absolutely love what I do so being recognised for it is an icing on the cake.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY? HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?

So It is interesting, no two days of mine are alike, at least pre pandemic they weren't because some days I would be out on shoot or meetings or even at home writing on my sofa . Now there is a little more routine in the sense that everybody's at home there is a limited amount of things you can do, so I end up actually doing a lot more writing at home. I am doing a lot of meetings and also alot of downtime as well.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

I believe one of my greatest achievements that I am personally very proud of has been starting Girl Tribe by Malini. Over the years, there have been accolades and awards, but starting this judgment-free community where real women talk, share, support, empower, network, and inspire each other to live their best lives has been a very important milestone. Bringing together a diverse range of women of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences to converse, share views, and offer expertise on any topic via multiple mediums is extremely rewarding and a feat in itself.

The success of the #IgnoreNoMore movement is also something I am very grateful for. During the pandemic, this online movement empowered men and women to speak up against online harassment. This campaign aimed to empower both men and women to protect themselves against online trolls and stand fiercely against internet abuse and social media's creep-fest, and I am glad it received so much support from everyone.



HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

I will be honest when things are difficult, of course I suffer stress, anxiety just like everyone else, but I have a great support system with my confounders, my other co-founder Nowshad who is also my husband. They are very supportive and make it a lot easier to get through the tough times and get through and also I have a very supportive team. Also we adopted a puppy Milo who is a great stress buster. I think these are the things that definitely help, spending time with friends and decompressing, stepping away and not taking yourself so seriously.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Over the years my principles for success have changed and evolved. Initially it was all about putting your head down and working hard and not making it about the money, finding your passion by trying to do different things and learning about the things that you are good at, that you love to do; it's the logic of ikigai which are four pillars – find something you love to do that you are good at, that you can be paid to do and what the world needs!

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

I would definitely reverse the corona virus and all the hurt and pain and loss people have suffered.

Another thing I would personally reverse the times I have had so much insecurity about myself where I had self doubt, if I could go back and change that. Although that is also a part of becoming who you are growing up and evolving..wish I was as comfortable in my own skin as I was in my teens and 20s as I am in my 40s.

Aside from that I wish that all my loved ones stay healthy and happy. At the end of the day those are the most important things that no amount of wealth can bring you joy or if you're not healthy and happy.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

My advice for people starting out is simple: don't start out looking to become rich and famous, especially in the world of creators. It is important to step back and think about the one thing you love to do even if no one paid you to do it and make that your career and passion we live in a time where you can make anything your job – from designing shoes to social media manager to who knows what careers are going to appear tomorrow that don't even exist today with the changing face of the world. So focus on being the best self and doing something that you love and the fame and fortune will follow.



HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

I am excited to be a part of the biggest plantation drive in India. I have always admired the people who take effort to do that, I have personally never planted a tree before so I am very excited to go and be a part of the solution to the global warming and climate change and I think everyone should take part in initiative and plant trees and follow footsteps of achievers who are making that effort. No amount of success or money can save us if we don't have a healthy planet to live on.

I have tried to help my husband with a very green thumb at home, but I don't have a great green thumb but I am hoping this will be the change for me. I think planting a tree is a beautiful thing, it's really about starting a new life and looking at a tree is always refreshing and nourishing and it is wonderful to be a part of that solution.



PRIYA DUTT RONCON

TRUSTEE NARGIS DUTT FOUNDATION
EX MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Social Activist, Empowering lives, influencer

Passionately carrying forward her parents legacy for social causes through the Nargis Dutt Foundation

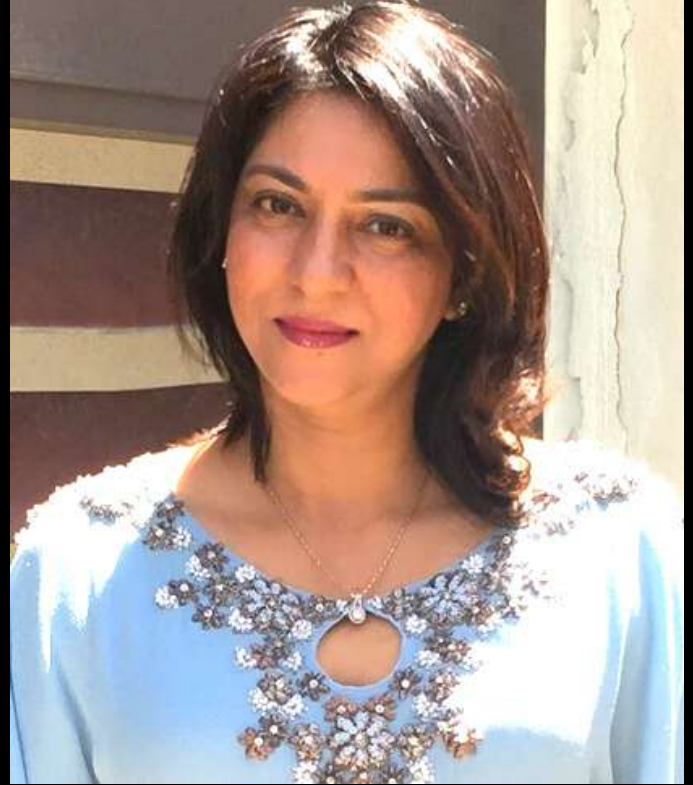
Member of parliament for 10 years during which she worked towards women empowerment, child rights and uplifting her constituency

In 1987, was a part of a 78 days peace march, with her father Shri Sunil Dutt, from Mumbai to Amritsar, covering a distance of over 2700 kms with a message 'Give Peace a Chance'

In 1988, along with her father, she marched from Nagasaki to Hiroshima, Japan for World Peace and Nuclear Disarmament spreading the philosophies of the great Mahatma of brotherhood, understanding and non-violence

Mother to two wonderful boys

📷 @priyadutt



Priya Dutt has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

After my father passed away in 2005, I not only continued the political legacy he left behind but also spearheaded the Nargis Dutt Foundation. The foundation works in the areas of Health, Education, Women Empowerment and Animal Welfare.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I have grown up seeing my parents make a difference in people's lives. When my father was in politics, I used to take care of the daily activities of the Nargis Dutt Foundation, which my father started in my mother's memory after she succumbed to cancer. I have always been a social worker at heart and realised one doesn't need to have power or position to make a difference. One just needed to care enough.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

I am extremely humbled with this recognition. At the same time I am also hopeful that it will bring like minded people together and help make a greater difference. I believe great things can be achieved through collaborative work and good intentions.



**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

My day starts with a prayer in gratitude for everything I have been blessed with. Besides the foundation work, I'm also artistically inclined towards painting and spend a lot of time learning the nuances of the art. My sons are home for their holidays and we spend a lot of time eating good food and watching football matches. I also have 3 dogs who vie for my attention equally and I'm happy to abide. I am also into yoga to help me balance my work and family life.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

I think being able to make a difference in people's lives is one of my greatest achievements. I love to see the impact I am able to make through the foundation. When I see children excelling in their lives due to a scholarship received or a school getting cent percent because of our intervention, it makes my heart swell with pride. Seeing women being empowered is a huge motivation for me and even helping a patient with an diagnosis to help save a life, makes me happy.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

I always remember my father's words when the goings get tough that "This too will pass". It gives me strength to know he's always by my side guiding me.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Honesty, integrity and going with the flow.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

End poverty and wars, good health for all, pollution free world.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Believe in yourself, your abilities and skills. That peace of mind is everything and find a job, relationship and hobby that makes you happy.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

I feel grateful to be a part of this initiative as it gives me an opportunity to leave behind a better planet for my children and generations to follow. Planting trees has an immense impact on the environment. My message to the readers is 'please plant a tree and make our world a better place'. It's really that easy to make a difference.



LINA ASHAR

CO-FOUNDER
KORROBOREE

Educator, Tedx Speaker, Visionary

Co-founded Korroboree, a knowledge and parenting platform conceptualised to make self-directed learning accessible to all

Won 'People Who Inspire India' – Education Iconic Award 2021

Received Lifetime Achievement in Education Leadership Award 2014

Awarded for 'Exemplary Contribution in ECCE of the year working for young children and their education' by ECA Awards held at the Earlyed Asia Conference - Jaipur 2019

Received the 'Brainfeed Lifetime Achievement Award 2018-19'

📷 @asharlina

☎ 98200 60115



*Lina has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

I am a teacher at heart and started my teaching journey in Australia. When I came back to India, I aspired to help students take a leap towards self-paced learning that directs their knowledge, energies and potential towards becoming their best versions. Thus, Kangaroo Kids and Billabong High were born from my heart and built with love. I developed a system where teachers are inspired to look at alternative ways of teaching 'outside of the textbook' based on instructional design through the lens of neuro, behavioral and energy science. To create a greater impact that I yearned for, I sold the company in 2016 and have dedicated my life to building Korroboree- a knowledge and learning platform that moves children towards self-directed learning and a journey of exploring their infinite potential. With Korroboree, I aim to make education inspiring and accessible to one and all.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

The possibilities within each child are limitless. Only self-directed education and conscious parenting can tap into their pool of potential and guide them towards becoming the best version of themselves. With this thought and determination, I started Kangaroo Kids and Billabong High where more than IQ, our area of focus was our children's EQ- their emotional wellbeing. After years now, I am still an educator driving the youth towards realising their infinite potential and making the world more giving, more abundant and a kinder place for generations to come.



HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

Being selected among the top 99 Achievers in India I feel that the impact I have tried to create all my life is growing in momentum. To say the least, I feel elated and grateful to all who have inspired me to stride with confidence in this least-trodden path of conscious parenting and self-paced education in India.

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

Because I love what I have been doing all my life, I never had to try to balance work and family life – Everything just happened. My family is in Australia and technology keeps us connected, continents apart but connected at heart. I ensure that I speak to my brothers daily and stay connected/

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

I am a believer of an internal sense of achievement where if I accomplish the goals that I set internally I feel successful. Giving birth to Kangaroo Kids, Billabong High and Korroboree has been my greatest achievement. Born from my heart and built with unflinching support of people who believed in my vision of creating a world where children are motivated to dream, encouraged to chase them and guided to shape them to reality.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

For me every stumbling block on my way is a stepping stone to my destination, a lesson and an opportunity to become more resilient. 2006 was a rough year for me. I felt that I had hit the rock bottom only to realise that how we look at things is how things actually are. My mantra since then has been 'Change the way you look at things, and the things you look at change'.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

To me, success has a slightly different meaning than what the dictionary defines. I am a believer in an internal rewarding system- I set goals internally and once I achieve them I feel successful. My main principle to achieve success is don't let anyone define your success.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

1. Make quality education available to all children of the world.
2. Make emotional health a top priority for all individuals.
3. Wish for everyone to develop a growth mindset that propels them to thrive in every situation and grow through every experience.



IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Develop a growth mindset and embrace resilience- you will always hear the voice inside you telling you to keep moving forward no matter what.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

We need to nurture an army of trees for our future generations to save them from global warming, drastic climate changes, floods, poor air quality and so on. Even if each of us plant 1 tree a year, the impact would be immense. Plant trees on special occasions. Let's create a ripple effect and watch the world become greener and cleaner. As the saying goes, we don't have a Planet B.



PRIYANKA KHURANA GOYAL

MANAGING DIRECTOR
NOMURA, MUMBAI

*Mrs India 2015 and the first Indian citizen to win
the Mrs Earth Pageant in 2016*

*Priyanka is part of the fixed income sales team within the Global
Market business in Asia ex-Japan*

*Prior to Nomura, she was in a similar India fixed income sales
position at Lehman Brothers, which she joined soon after her MBA.*

*She is also a mentor to many people, especially women within and
outside the organisation*

*Priyanka Khurana Goyal has been recognised as India's top 100
women in finance by the Association of International Wealth
Management of India (AIWM)*

*Priyanka is one of the winners in the leading category which
recognises women professionals working in the finance/financial
Institutions in a CXO role*



*Priyanka has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

FROM EARNING THE MRS INDIA TITLE TO QUEEN OF SUBSTANCE, AND NOW MRS EARTH, YOU HAVE COME A LONG WAY. WHAT KIND OF CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE IN YOUR FASHION JOURNEY?

I did everything passionately and that was the main reason I found whole journey very interesting. My preparation for the pageant needed planning and I ensured every bit was well thought over. To begin with, I had to work on my body as I am a mother of a 2-year-old. Mrs Earth is an international competition and the level of fitness expected was really high. I started training in gym as soon as I won the Mrs India title. I had been doing yoga and meditation regularly but gym was an addition to my fitness regime. Along with workout I took nutrition lessons from Baqar Nassir of Topspin which improved my skin, hair, tone, glow and internal strength. Moving on to my wardrobe preparation for the event, being an investment banker my dressing sense was up-to-date for finance world but for fashion dressing skills I got lot of support and learnings from Ritika Ramtri of Tiara. She guided me on the Mrs Earth wardrobe, styling, stage presence, onstage speaking and overall grooming. I wanted to set a benchmark so I made lot of efforts in detailing for every round. I created a coffee table book for the Q&A session (thanks to team Huestorm), along with Vijay Kabra and team. I also made a calendar addressing all the major environmental concerns posing threat to our planet Earth. Putting up benchmarks of excellence to everything I did and living up to it was the internal challenge I faced and surmounted.



**AS A CHILD, DID YOU ENJOY POSING IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR AND DO THE CATWALK?
SHARE WITH US WHEN AND HOW DID YOU FIND INTEREST IN MODELLING?**

Yes I used to love posing in front of the mirror. It is every girl's dream to be a model while growing up. I was good in studies as well. I studied hard and got through IIM Calcutta and then into my dream job at that point- investment banking. When I settled down and had baby, that's when the opportunity of Mrs India and Mrs Earth came to me. I believe there must be a reason that God gave me this chance at 32 and not at 20. It feels like my childhood dream has come true now. I am very thankful to everyone who has supported me in this journey.

YOUR ACADEMIC GRAPH HAS ALWAYS BEEN TERRIFIC. FROM BEING THE 1ST RANKER IN BACHELOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO COMPLETING YOUR MBA FROM IIM CALCUTTA WITH 3RD RANK, AND NOW WORKING AT ONE OF THE LARGEST INVESTMENT BANKS IN THE WORLD, HOW HAS BEEN THE RIDE SO FAR?

Ride so far has been fabulous. There as usual have been many ups and down, but ups generally get highlighted more often than the downs. Taking about my downs, you must be aware of 2008 Lehman Brothers downfall as it went through bankruptcy, 2008-2010 has been the worst year for financial markets and at the same time financial markets has undergone drastic moves of job cuts, shut downs etc. I follow two philosophies – a) you should be a firm believer in whatever you do, only take up a task if you think you can do justice to it – may it be your job, your relationship, house work, Mrs India pageant, or Mrs Earth competition. Everything I do has my stamp and that stamp needs to have value. Thus, always remember whatever you do, just do it well, put in your heart and focus into it and undoubtedly the result will be good; b) once you have done your best then just leave the rest to destiny. There is only so much you can do, prepare well and present the best picture when the need comes. Beyond a point the result is not in your control. This helps me multitask and focus on my role and not worry about the outcome much.

**HAS YOUR FAMILY ALWAYS SUPPORTED YOU IN YOUR CAREER DECISIONS?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE?**

My family has been always very supportive; especially my husband who believes that you should always do something that gives you happiness. He is always with me in all my decision. Managing a family needs human support and my in-laws, parents, my staff has always been there with me. I thank them for all for their constant support. In balancing different areas of my life, yoga and meditation has really helped me. I can focus on things due to practise of meditation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is my idol, and if he can do so many things in a day and that too so efficiently, I should be able to do it too. I try to follow him in multitasking.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH US YOUR FITNESS ROUTINE?

To achieve a body that you can flaunt on Mrs Earth stage, it takes a lot of efforts. I did weights training 4 times a week, remaining three days I was doing yoga. Meditation was complimenting all these treatments on daily basis for 15 minutes. In gym, for four days I used to focus on different body parts like chest, shoulders, back, legs, triceps and biceps, while abs was every day as it needed maximum amount of work given a fact that I had delivered a baby and abs fat takes more time to burn. I also practised Surya Namaskar for overall wellbeing. This entire physical workout needs to be complimented with a right of diet which helps you achieve the desired results. Your diet need to have a good mix of nutrients, minerals and vitamins which lead to inner glow. Correct workout complimented with right diet gives you all day energy. I highly recommend people to follow a fitness regime in order to enjoy life to the fullest.

YOU'RE BORN AND RAISED IN DELHI, SHARE WITH US SOME OF YOUR FONDEST MEMORIES IN THE CITY.

I have been in Mumbai for last eight years and I do miss food and festivity in Delhi. I love Chandni Chowk ke chat and street food at Kamla Nagar market. The way Delhiites celebrate life with dance, dhol, music and food is just exemplary, and I miss that a lot in Mumbai.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR LEISURE TIME?

After Mrs Earth I don't really get much of that luxury of leisure time but whenever I get I like cooking. I am a foodie and don't like regular food. I love Mexican and Italian as it adds lot of flavour to my life. I also love dancing to Bollywood music. I spend time decorating my house which I feel is an extension of my creativity.



RACHEL GOENKA

FOUNDER AND CEO
THE CHOCOLATE SPOON COMPANY PVT LTD

RESTAURATEUR, CHEF, AUTHOR

Rachel's debut cookbook 'Adventures with Mithai' won the prestigious 'Gourmand World Cookbook Awards 2020' for India in the category of Pastry & Desserts

In 2020, she joined the National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) as the youngest member of the Management Committee

Won the 'Woman Entrepreneur of the Year' award at the Times Hospitality Icons 2019

Won the 'Woman Empowerment Award' by Asia One Magazine 2019

Won the award for 'Youngest Restaurateur of the Year' at the 'Restaurant India Awards' 2018

📷 @rachelgoenka ✉️ rachelgoenka@gmail.com



*Rachel has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

I graduated with a double degree in Journalism and English from Pennsylvania State University and was inclined towards journalism and advertising. I realized food was always a true passion of mine and decided to turn my dream into reality. I attended the Ballymaloe Cookery School in Ireland, where I trained under celebrity chef Rachel Allen and then moved to Le Cordon Bleu in London to specialize in Patisserie. I started my first restaurant, The Sassy Spoon in 2013 and today I have 6 brands across Mumbai and Pune. I was lucky enough to turn this passion into a career. It's something that I don't see as work rather something that constantly challenges me and allows me to explore my creative side.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

Food has always been a massive passion of mine and I really wanted a career that was both challenging and driven by creativity and innovation. There is constant room to grow and so much to explore in the world of food. No day is the same and that's what makes my career so interesting.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

It's humbling to be recognized as one of the top achievers in India, especially with so many people doing such wonderful and inspiring things.



**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

I think organized chaos is the best way to describe it! With work, two children and running a home it's not an easy task at all and takes a lot of time management. I plan my week out in advance to make sure I have time for both my kids, work, my husband and myself. It's a matter of prioritizing and making sure you get the most out of your day. I make numerous checklists daily to make sure I am on top of things.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

I don't think there's been a bigger achievement than my two children. They make me want to be a better person every day and set an example for them. Having said that, on the work front the approach we've been taking to expanding the brands have been a massive accomplishment. After the formative years of getting our basics right and strengthening our foundations, we have been expanding exponentially even during the pandemic. In terms of recognition, the restaurants themselves have won multiple awards over the past 5 years. Winning the Gourmand Award for the Best Pastry and Dessert Book in the World for my book, Adventures with Mithai is another accomplishment I am extremely proud of.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

My family is my biggest inspiration and motivation. My husband is my rock and support system. For me, my family is what keeps me going when things don't always go as planned.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Hard work, integrity and humility.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

Given the current world situation I would definitely wish away this global pandemic. The second would be to reduce global warming so generations after have one thing less to worry about. The third (and I'm being cheeky) would be to be able to eat whatever I wanted without having to worry about the calories.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Work hard. There is no substitute for hard work. Set smaller goals and find motivation in everything you do. Taking the right risks is essential to achieving success which doesn't always have to be financial. Having a positive attitude towards everything you do is a game changer.



HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

I think it's a fantastic initiative! We need to plant more trees and we need to conserve our forests. Global warming and climate change is a massive threat to our existence and we need to start looking after our planet a lot better. Plant more trees, whether it's for a celebration, an occasion or something you do for the betterment of the planet it's something that will only benefit generations.



KADHAMBARI CHINTAMANI

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
INDIAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, ISPP

*Educationist, Leadership & Communications
Specialist*

*Introduced India's most popular Business Television Programme
Business Breakfast, anchored by Technocrat and current politician
Jairam Ramesh*

Successfully founded a Television and Film Company INTV

*Won the National Award for a documentary film The Lijjat
Sisterhood*

*Business Bizarre, a series produced for BBC World, is taught as
study material at IIT Madras and IMD Lausanne, Switzerland*

📷 @kadhambaric

☎ 9810015277



*Kadhambari has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

I started off my career as a production assistant for a film and television company— I always tell people that the two best jobs I have had, are right at the top and right at the bottom, because it's where you get a ringside view of things. I became an entrepreneur when I took over the Television division from Ananda Bazaar Patrika and set up INTV in 1996. As one of the premier Production Companies in the Current Affairs' and Documentary business, I had a wonderful stint, doing it all – large Television series, and small films. In 2005, I won the prestigious National Award for a documentary I made on the Lijjat Papad cooperative. After 20 odd years of making Current Affairs Programming and documentary films, I wanted to do something different. I wanted to give back and do more. That's when I got the opportunity to be the Chief Administrative Officer for ISPP - The Indian School of Public Policy, India's first Public Policy School. Public Policy today is vital for India, and our endeavor is to create future leaders who have the skills and tools to do so. It is very special to be part of an effort that trains young people to transform India into the country it's meant to be.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

Like I said, I was looking to give more of myself. Sometimes when you put something out into the universe, it comes back to you.



HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

I am delighted and privileged, above all, to be in the company of such extraordinary women.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY? HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?

Over a lifetime I have lived by a task-list for the day— prepare food for my daughter, buy chicken for the dog, call the Prime Minister's office— they are all the same for me. I remember when I was working on a project for the BBC, and had an Executive Producer in London, my little daughter would be around while I had my meetings. One day she asked me if the said EP was my "boss". I tried explaining how the company worked, and the concept of clients, and she then asked if she could play a role too. So, she was given the job of "messenger girl"— to tell the office when lunch was ready! — for a princely sum of 30 rupees a month. As a single mother, time with my child was sacred for me— when she was young, for instance, I made sure I fed her and read to her, no matter what. All that I commit to doing is equally important to me, there is no hierarchy or segregation.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

I find this question difficult to answer— how do you separate a singular "achievement" from the overall person you aspire to be? Above all, I am proud that I have held on to my empathy and compassion for other people, and hopefully been someone who my family, friends and colleagues can absolutely rely on.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

By taking just one step at a time. I tell myself to only do the job that needs to be done today, without either looking back or looking ahead. One should simply continue to do what one has to do without worrying about whether things will work out— but they always do.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Just one—God is in the detail.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

- I would change the fact that people are treated differently and given different opportunities based on where they come from and what they look like. I want to democratize society so that a transformative education is available to all.
- I would change the way in which human beings conceive of their relationship to land and the natural environment so that the preservation of wildlife becomes a top priority at all levels.
- Finally, I just want more kindness in the world. To all human beings, even and especially those who disagree with you.



IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

When I was sixteen years old, I came to Delhi on a holiday with my father. One day while I was buttering a toast, he said to me "Kadham if you continue to do that, you're going to be very successful". "Do what?", I asked him, puzzled. He told me that if I did everything with as much care and attention to detail as I buttered the toast that morning, the rest would work itself out. Give every task the very best of yourself... there is no such thing as menial work.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

I think it is the single most important thing. Whether we plant ten trees or a hundred, it is a microcosm of a vision for environmental continuity that will allow us to live on. In conclusion, let me borrow the words of Rabindranath Tagore: "The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life."



ZAHRA JANI

LIFESTYLE AND PARENTING INFLUENCER

@beingmomandbeyond

Things that she is proud of:

The birth of her child Alizah. She has brought so many good things to her life and is so grateful for her

Her marriage to her long-term beau, Abiali. Coming from different religions (her Hindu, him Muslim), it was a story full of drama and so much love

Having been overweight nearly her entire life, losing 47 kgs stands to be one of her proudest achievements

Growing her community of engaged Mothers who actively come to my page to seek solutions, share stories, and stay connected

Within a span of two years, she has been able to successfully establish her brand Being Mom And Beyond and is truly making a mark in the Parenting and Lifestyle space

 *@beingmom_andbeyond*  *zahrabmnb@gmail.com*



Zahra has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

It has been 2 years since I started my career as a full-time Lifestyle and Parenting Influencer and the journey so far has been wonderful and deeply fulfilling. Along with building a career and growing professionally, I have experienced tremendous growth on the personal front as well. But what I love the most about my job is that it has given me a chance to meet a lot of inspiring people and build a community that is kind and giving. I have learned, unlearned, and relearned a lot about myself over the past couple of years and each experience has added to my personality.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I have always been a creative person on a constant lookout for different ways in which I can express this aspect of my personality. So, when I became a mom, I started clicking fun and creative pictures of my daughter Alizah, and shared them with my family and friends, and of course, on my Instagram profile. I started getting an overwhelming response on my posts and I realized that being a Lifestyle and Parenting Influencer was an amazing career option. That's when I began researching the possibilities and began posting regularly. Slowly, things picked up the pace and one thing led to another - I'd found my true calling.

Today, it has been two years since then and I am thoroughly enjoying every single bit of it, grateful for every opportunity coming my way.



HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

It feels great and to be honest, it also feels surreal! I come from a very conservative background where I never really got the chance to build a career. So having a career and giving my everything to make it a success has been incredibly empowering. I have worked really hard for this, and my hard work being acknowledged in this way means a lot to me. I'd never imagined that things could transpire like this, but I feel truly honored to be amongst the top 99 Achievers of India.

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

For me time management is everything and I always plan my day in advance. We are a family of early risers, so our typical day starts fairly early. I try to sneak in a cup of coffee by myself – this small window of me-time helps gives my day the much-needed head start. This is followed by settling Alizah down for her online school and diving right into my workout routine.

Alizah's online school is really like my hyper-productivity pocket. Once I am done with my workout, I get the daily household chores out of the way and try to dedicate about 5-6 hours to my work.

Evenings are again spent with Alizah, playing with her in the park, before having dinner with the family. Simple yet structured and preplanned!

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

Like I said, coming from conservative family background, having a career that is successful and thriving is an achievement in its own right. But for me, being able to find something that I am deeply passionate about and collaborating with big brands doing great work is very gratifying. To be able to carve a niche for myself in the influencer community within a short period of two years – is something I am really proud of.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

Even though I like to plan my days in advance, I understand that I cannot plan for every contingency. There are days when things don't pan out as smoothly as I would like. When that happens, my philosophy is simple – life is a journey, not a race. Sure, there will be days when things will not go as planned but each experience will teach you something valuable. So, whenever things hit a low, I don't let them bring me down – I learn my lesson and move on.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

For me, it is all about knowledge, hard work and discipline.

I make sure I do a ton of research about every new venture that I put my mind to. Being aware and staying updated is the only way ahead. I also believe that Nothing worth achieving comes easy – you have to put in your 100% and work hard to realize your dreams. And lastly, I believe that success can only be achieved through discipline and consistent efforts.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

Well, given the current situation, if I had a magic wand, I would definitely use it to get end the COVID-19 pandemic and bring all our lives back on track. The second thing that I would like to change is the effects of global warming – so that our children can have a better future and a fair chance at living a healthy, fulfilling life. The third thing, and perhaps the thing that's the closest to my heart will be to change the patriarchal perception that a girl child is a burden on the family. Of course, things have improved by leaps and bounds but there are still pockets of society where a girl child's potential is questioned, and she is not given equal opportunities to flourish. If I could magically change things, this would surely be on my agenda.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

It is extremely important that you do your test the waters before taking the plunge. Most people believe it is an easy job since it is just social media. But that simply isn't the case. Being an influencer or a digital content creator is a serious business, and you must treat it as such. There's a lot that goes into running a successful business – you have to plan everything, invest a lot of your time and resources and above everything else, be prepared to work hard and be consistent in your efforts.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

It feels great to be a part of the Biggest Tree Plantation Drive in India. We all want to do our bit towards the conservation of nature, but we don't know where to start. This initiative has given me an opportunity to do my bit and leave a better planet for our future generations to live in. And I would love to use this platform to urge all the readers to come together and be a part of this drive and make it a success.



VARADA KULKARNI

PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER,
MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER, INFLUENCER
AND SOCIAL CATALYST



*Varada has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

Varada likes to describe herself as a CSR professional with a passion for development and human excellence. Post graduate in social work from Shivaji University. She has rich experience of 20 years from both developmental and corporate sector. Has conducted research, come up with ideas, developed policies, created detailed plans, built relationships with partner organizations, and then implemented and coordinated a range of activities and initiatives which are designed to have a positive impact on the environment and local communities.

Varada is responsible for developing and driving CSR strategy and process oriented sustainable programs aligned with Indian government's CSR schedule. She takes the lead in planning and developing CSR programs, driving partner selection and end-to-end program management through process rigor and a strong MOS. She is responsible for creating an audit framework to ensure compliance, tracking, measurement, and reporting. She is also involved in external stakeholder engagement, education, and employee volunteerism.

Varada began her career in 2001 as Senior College lecturer at Shree Siddheshwar Home Science College, Solapur affiliated to SNDT, Mumbai University. Currently working with Reliance Industries Limited, Nagothane Manufacturing Division since 2011 as Lead CSR.



Varada is member of Site Women Council Committee. She has completed R-Aadya graduation course of Reliance Industries Limited (A diversity initiative which enables women employees to build cross-functional networks ,exchange ideas and gain exposure to Senior Leaders who can act as their guides and Mentors in their Career Development and Growth).

She is also Regional Director for Western region of India for "Women Happiness" working on Probono basis. She is appointed as Indian Ambassador for "My Body is My Body" Musical Animated Child Abuse Prevention Programme. She is an activist for "Smart India" project of Amitabh Media House, Rajasthan. She is appointed as Maharashtra State Chief Coordinator by Human Rights and Social Justice Mission . Winner of 40 under 40 Indian achievers Award 2020.Certified trainer of ICPE (Indian Centre For Plastic in the Environment) for creating awareness amongst School students, women and Youth .

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

Helping people and serving Society is in my DNA .I always wanted to make a difference in the lives of people and such a qualities of Social workers motivated me to become a Professional Social worker. I further developed my abilities- and decided to pursue a career in the field and successfully completed my Masters in Social work and stood third rank in the finals . I am helping communities to relieve their grief, empowering them to fight for social justice, and improve lives on volunteer basis. I aim to significantly improve the lives of the individuals and families I serve. Few qualities of mine helped me in shaping my career like I am non-judgemental, well organized, Optimist , proactive and an excellent communicator.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

One of the most basic emotional needs for any human is recognition of a job well done.I've been so honored to be part of this Indian Achievers club initiative . Selected for this award to me is just absolutely phenomenal . I could never in words describe the feeling of selected amongst the top 99 Achievers of India. I'm ecstatic and It's really a unique feeling ,so inspiring. It's a great recognition of the work I do as a social catalyst.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY? HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?

Social workers help people respond to and cope with social, economic, emotional and behavioral problems in their daily lives. As a Professional Social worker my schedule may change depending on Stakeholder's scheduling, paperwork, staff meetings, and other factors. Generally my schedule includes Meeting With internal and external stokeholds, Responding to Emergencies, Evaluating and Connecting With Other Services , Advocating for Clients .Being a Social workers at every level I have demonstrated the skills and capability to not only address safety for today but to translate fear, pain, anxiety and loss into empowerment and social transformation.



Social workers not only help service users, they also help each other, and they know the group as a space through which opportunities to give and receive help multiply. I have started the initiative consisted of online mutual support groups for social workers conducted through a virtual platform to help practitioners stay resilient and mutually supportive during the COVID-19 pandemic. In these unprecedented and turbulent times, myself and my Professional connects have been called on to face new challenges and new concerns for service users and for themselves. Participants were voluntarily participated to help themselves as well as help Patients and Families to facilitate the Health Services . We were divided into groups on the basis of the social workers' area of intervention.

In professional life apart from COVID-19 during a typical work week, one of my biggest tasks is checking in on my staff and assessing progress on various projects especially during this pandemic . I like to meet first thing on Mondays to discuss our priorities for the week, then meet again in the middle of the week to check progress, and once at the end of the week to discuss goal setting for the next week. I meet with smaller groups of my staff in the middle of the week to troubleshoot any issues. Usually I spend most of my valuable time to travel locally to visit clients, meet with service providers or participate in meetings. I am spending days helping people with complicated psychological, health, social, or financial problems. Assisting families in need . I am action and target oriented Women with ownership mindset which always helps me in maintaining proactiveness at Workplace . Follows PDCA method for tracking the work progress.

In personal life I set priorities and also plan and do things in advance. My Family and Friends are my top most priorities .They are my huge strength . I do practice self-reflection and awareness often which help me recognize whether I am in balance or not in a timely manner. I By nature I am very optimistic person and do believe in self-care therefore I take time for myself for hobbies , personal growth ,showing gratitude and exhibit kindness in behaviour . My main aim for my personal life is to keep myself happy and spread happiness wherever I go .

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

My greatest professional achievement was completing my Master's Degree and secured third position in University toppers list. I'm proud of this accomplishment and I feel that what I learned through the degree and this 20 years of extensive professional experience giving positive outcomes in my career now.

Selected as Indian Brand Ambassador for MY Body is My Body initiative.

Delivered State level and National Level sessions for NGO staff members, Social workers to keep them updated on CSR compliances. Empowered them with knowledge.

Created awareness about Menstrual Hygiene Management amongst adolescent girls and women in the Society via professional connects.

Broadened and maintained an extensive network of contacts and clients.

Praised for the ability to solve difficult problems independently and efficiently.



HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

I keep myself ready with two or three options in hand to execute the work before implementing the project. If something goes wrong I take a step back and evaluate the process. Come out the problem if I have to, but I don't linger on the problem for long time.

Process my thoughts/emotions with any of the methods like: Talking to someone , Meditation, Listening Music and Green nature are actually healing factors for me. I acknowledge my positive as well as negative thoughts.

Through some bad experiences, I found the opportunity to learn about my personal strength, courage and willingness to face changes. I learned how lucky I am to be together and how much stronger it makes me. Through this life journey I learned that job and money comes and goes. But being together as a family and experiencing love, trust and happiness, especially in uncertain times, is an indestructible power.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

The first core principle to success in my life is gratitude. I nurture family and friends. Staying fit and healthy is Mantra of successful life .I do what I relish (mostly) and have a passion for. Always ready to be there for others. For personal and professional growth I always keep developing my skills and knowledge. I practice the spiritual principles of recovery are as follows: acceptance, hope, faith, courage, honesty, patience, humility, willingness, brotherly-love, integrity, self-discipline, and service .

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

There are many good things that I would do with my magic wand .

Peaceful , Pollution free and Prosperous World is certainly a tremendous request. It is the most important wish of mine.

My second wish would be education. I want children to have an education because they need to be educated and be smart. They are the backbone of our Society.

Equal life for all without any discrimination : Let it be male, female, of any caste, creed, religion, skin color, rape victims, acid-attack victims, gay, lesbians or transgender.



IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Because of extensive field experience I can recommend / suggestion following things

- 1) Hard Work and Patience Pays Off
- 2) Focus on your stakeholders. Remember the money comes in and go but serving is what keeps the stakeholder in and causes a multiple of referrals generated.
- 3) Create a profile for your prospects (especially of decision makers , Key players , resource persons etc.).This allows you stay organized, have all necessary info including what they want and need.
- 4) Research your competitors for benchmarking and tracking our work.
- 5) Keep budgetary provision and adhere to the compliances.
- 6) Keep hold on your work. Grow your professional network.
- 7) Workout and keep yourself healthy and happy
- 8) Get on top of your own personal development because you will have problems. Your ability to deal with seemingly overwhelming challenges will be a big element of whether or not you will whether the storm. Read some books ,here is my core list of books.

Wealth creation: Think and Grow Rich – Napoleon Hill , Creative Visualization – Shakti Gawain , The Secret – Rhonda Byrne , Rich Dad Poor Dad – Robert Kiyosaki, The Law of Attraction – Esther and Jerry Hicks ,The Power of Your Subconscious Mind – Joseph Murphy

Personal development and motivational: Unlimited Power – Anthony Robbins, Awaken the Giant Within – Anthony Robbins, How to Stop Worrying and Start Living – Dale Carnegie ,The Power of Positive Thinking – Norman Vincent Peale ,The Magic of Thinking Big – Dr. David Schwartz, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People – Stephen Covey, The Law of Attraction – Esther and Jerry Hicks ,The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People – Stephen Covey, The Power of Your Subconscious Mind – Joseph Murphy

Spirituality and Self-actualization: The Power of Now – Eckhart Tolle, The Law of Attraction – Esther and Jerry Hicks, The Alchemist – Paulo Coelho, Meditations: The Spiritual Teachings of Marcus Aurelius
Business / Economics/ Finances :-Good to Great – Jim Collins , The 4-Hour Workweek – Timothy Ferriss , The Richest Man in Babylon – George S. Clason ,The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership – John C. Maxwell, It's Not How Good You Are, It's How Good You Want to be – Paul Arden



HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

My most learning experience and at some point interesting experience was a tree planting exercise. Trees are the best friend of every human being it is our lifeline. Being a Social Worker I am always concern about Social and environmental issues. This huge tree plantation drive given me an opportunity to show my gratitude towards Mother Earth. I am gratified by conserving nature. Planting trees gives me immense pleasure that I am doing something practical to save the environment and the planet from destruction. Our earth would be like that without trees - lifeless, colorless, lusterless. We are here because of them. We must therefore start valuing them. Enjoyed bonding more with nature. I am appreciating more and more nature and plants. I have rejoiced in helping bird life flourish.

Everyone in COVID-19 pandemic now understand the importance of Oxygen, so everybody is now convinced of the need for tree conservation.

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Tree Plantation drives combat many environmental issues like deforestation, erosion of soil, desertification in semi-arid areas, global warming and hence enhancing the beauty and balance of the environment. Trees absorb harmful gases and emit oxygen resulting in an increase in oxygen supply.

Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the food steps of an Achiever like you? Trees are having Personal & Spiritual Value, Ecological & Environmental Value, Community & Social Value, Practical & Commercial Value, Property Value & Economic Value therefore sow it, grow it, conserve it ('As you sow so shall you reap'). Make this world a place to breath pure. Plant trees live trees. Protect many generations by planting trees. Give them a clean, safe life.



MEHA SHRIVASTAVA LAHIRI

CO-FOUNDER, COO & CFO

RECITY NETWORK INDIA PVT. LTD

Serial Entrepreneur, Women Founder, Environmentalist

First generation woman entrepreneur in the family

Successfully Co-founded & bootstrapped Recity Network from inception to current presence across 11 locations & achieved nearly 400% growth in revenues

Expanded the team from 2 co-founders to 100+ employees within 4 years

Led Recity to achieve the prestigious Atal Innovation Mission grant fund by NITI Aayog, Civic tech 2018 by Omidyar Network, 'Yes I am the Change' grant fund by Yes Bank Foundation and one of the 24 winners of the Maharashtra Start-Up week 2019 among many others

Finalist in India's first accelerator program for Women in Tech 'empoWer', an initiative by Zone Startups India for supporting women entrepreneurs



Meha has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

**WINNERS
2020**

@mehalahiri

9819694739

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

Born and raised in small-town Allahabad in a family of freedom fighters, academicians and defence personnel, I was a girl who had everything dear to her at arm's distance, especially nature and environment. We were raised on a regular diet of escapades to the Ganga and Mahadevi Verma's poems (by herself). Equality, fearlessness, hard work and love for nature were deeply ingrained into my personality since childhood. My journey took flight when I moved to Delhi, and later Pune for my education. After my MBA in Finance, I worked at esteemed media firms including Jasubhai Media and the Times Group. I initiated my journey as an entrepreneur too by starting a boutique marketing agency only to realise that I am made for something bigger. I am currently the Co-Founder of Recity Network, one of the fastest-growing start-ups in plastic waste management, determined to keep plastics in the economy and out of the environment. This journey of 4 years of Recity where we started small with just one project and no project for consecutive years and to achieve the scale where, today, we have a presence in 11 cities with a workforce of 122 has surely made me more humble than ever. In retrospect, I have realised that growing up in Allahabad of the 80s has given me a sense of what has gone wrong with our tier- 2 cities, and my experience in media has helped me articulate the journey of my company with greater efficiency. I have come to believe that hard work, once done, can bear fruit at any time in the future...



...What gives me immense happiness and satisfaction is in fact that we are doing social good through our work – good for our environment, the cities we live in and for our waste workers whom we are committed to professionalising. Learning from my failures and successes in life, I now feel extremely confident about solving the problem of plastics and solving it at scale.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

The innate desire to have a social mission and make an impact comes from childhood days. I was surrounded by individuals both in family and in school who were rooted in social work or were enabling others to do good. If I look back, I too wanted to study medicine and serve society by being a doctor. But life had some other plans. I went on to study Economics, later pursuing an MBA from an Indian University. The courses supported me to bridge my economic barriers and build a thinking process to start addressing the problems of the social sector, especially cities and the problem confronting them—environment threats, waste crises, inadequate urban planning among many others. I had witnessed all of these issues in Allahabad. A city with so much history, its central university is popularly known as the Oxford of the East and once a major political & cultural hub in North India. It aches to see my city with such significance turning into an urban mess.

The corporate world where I worked for nearly a decade honed my skills, helped me articulate my vision, structure professional and personal Why, What and How—The Golden Circle. It is here that I met Suraj, an Urban Planner with whom I co-founded Recity Network in 2017. We both bonded over our love for cities. We both saw cities as canvases of change, as places of innovation to create inclusive, liveable and circular cities. We collaborated with brands, urban local bodies & NGOs and started working on improving the waste management issues through our projects. Now after 4 years, we have expanded our horizon and are working to enable circularity in the cities and closing in on the waste loop. Suffice to say, my family and my school St.Mary's Convent have played a significant role in making me realise my life's purpose and give life to an inherent desire in me to make a social impact.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

Such acknowledgements have brought me a greater sense of responsibility towards society and women in general. I am extremely proud that more and more women are taking up leadership roles in organisations and transforming the way businesses are conducted and the way societies and families are being run.

Today, if I ask my daughter to draw a doctor or an entrepreneur, she will most likely draw a male figure whereas if I ask her to draw a homemaker, she will draw a female. I want to change this conditioning. People need to see that leadership skills are gender-neutral. As a woman in a leadership position, I am striving to do that every day in the way I run my company and in the way I operate within my family and friends.



...I strongly feel women are dynamic and powerful agents of change. Years of oppression have evolved us into excellent listeners, great managers and multitaskers and species who place social welfare at the centre of everything we do, which is a very different skill set than of a man. In this sense, we complement our male counterparts. I am glad that women with their unique approach to leadership are coming forward and participating in the workforce. I just wish to say to all aspiring entrepreneurs who are manoeuvring their way through this rough man's world is to keep striving ahead, you have everything in you that is needed to make this world a better place to live!

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

As an entrepreneur, my typical day has a lot of hustle. COVID has brought its own set of challenges. We are at home and our face to face meetings have been replaced with video calls with our teams and external partners. Expectations from a woman are already very high in our society. We are responsible for managing our home and kids as effectively as we manage our work. My ability to multitask comes in handy here. I have often been complimented for being great at multitasking by my team.

Also, I always emphasize collaboration over competition. I strongly believe one can accomplish more in a collaborative setup than a competitive setup. I exercise this rule both at work and at home. I am grateful for having a great personal relationship with my spouse that runs by the golden rule of collaboration. I feel we can live by this rule largely due to the open lines of communication between us. This negotiation of supporting each other and role reversal whenever there is a need, on our journey of professional accomplishments vis-a-vis family life pulled us through difficult times. Of course, it was not easy in the beginning. But, we always made it a point to never stop communicating and supporting each other in our best capacities and thankfully, the ship is still sailing!

I remember, my daughter was less than a year old when I encouraged and supported my husband's decision to go to another city to pursue his MBA. I did it because we had communicated about our aspirations and I was well aware of his professional goals. He similarly supports me and stands beside me like an immovable pillar. There were times when he gladly accepted the role of being a mommy to our little daughter when I was out of the city for months because of work commitments or drowned in long stretches of work. That is how important effective communication works for family and professional growth. And I have come to realize that it is these honest conversations that have helped me gather the courage to be an entrepreneur.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

I consider achievements to be a mix of both, tangible and intangible spread across phases of life.



I have had hereditary knee issues and had to get my both knees operated on. This broke my dream of becoming a doctor and an IPS officer. But I never gave up on my dream. In fact, I started dreaming bigger and better! I fought, shifted gears and reached a point where now I am the co-founder of one of the fastest-growing social impact for-profit start-ups with 100+ employees in the country.

Being a people's person and head of an organisation, I consider it is my responsibility to create an organisational culture that respects all and provides a great work-life balance to my employees. Even though we are a start-up, we give utmost priority to helping our employees carve out a balanced life where their personal and professional goals can be fulfilled at ease.

I take it as an achievement for being a first-generation woman entrepreneur who has the vision to keep plastics in the economy and out of the environment. I am proud that we have successfully developed such an ecosystem across 7 states and 11 cities of India. We are a start-up, which is completely bootstrapped, revenue-positive with 200% annual revenue growth. We are proud and humbled that we are supported by major brands and world-renowned organisations realising our mission to make our cities liveable, circular and plastic-free. Some of the organisations are Nestlé India, Godrej, Niti Aayog, Yes Foundation, ADB Bank and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board amongst others.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

I draw a lot of inspiration from the people around me – my family and my friends. How their approach towards life has transformed their situations, inspires me. My uncle (my father's elder brother) was in the air force. He got paralyzed early in the career that made him dependent on crutches for life. Back then, my father was preparing for the civil services examination. But due to this accident, he had to leave his dream to start a business to support the family. I have never seen my father complaining. No one in my family looked at my uncle with pity. I have seen him live his life with dignity and pride. He travelled all over India for business purposes with crutches. This inspired me a lot and cultivated in me an indomitable spirit to face any challenge that life throws at you. They are my inspiration!

My other biggest learning came from my ex-boss, Ms Sarita Vijayan, at Jasubhai Media in Mumbai where both Suraj & I worked. She gave me the freedom and confidence to approach anyone and strike a conversation with ease and sophistication. Sarita and I would go to offices with just a concept note and that is how we bagged the contract to plan and implement the largest architectural exposition. We made revenue of Rs 4 crore in 3 days. She made me fearless and that fearlessness enabled Suraj and me to bag our first big corporate client. I remember both of us were in the lift presenting our business idea to the Marketing head whom we finally got hold of after waiting for 2 hours. While Suraj was explaining the concept, I played the raw file of the project jingle on my phone for the background music. I made the Marketing head, who could make or break our dream project, listen to 'Karo Green Geela Sukha Blue' (Jingle to promote waste segregation into wet and dry waste). This jingle helped us bag our first major corporate client. In essence, it's the fearlessness that I have cultivated over the years that got us the desired recognition and industry support.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

The life that happens in-between goal setting and goal achievement is the most precious one. Defining why or the purpose of our existence and our actions are important. Your 'WHY' gives you the necessary drive in life.

I dream to build an empathetic and democratic organisational environment where everyone is allowed to explore areas for personal growth without any hesitancy.

Don't be scared to fall but build vision, knowledge and resistance to be futuristic to start all over again. Money is not the only important thing in life, rather it is a tool to realise one's dream. Hence respect it.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

I wish we all had quick-fix solutions in the form of a magic wand to the world's problems. But if I had a magic wand, I would bring our cities back to their old glories. I wish to bring back the lush green environs, the peaceful relationship between humans and nature, where no one is encroaching on each other's territories and every creature is living on earth in complete harmony with nature.

Second, I would remove all the plastic from our environment. No, plastic in the ocean, no plastic in landfills and no plastic fumes in the atmosphere.

Thirdly, I want a world where every person is respected for his/her work and the little contribution he/she is making to make our lives better and healthier. I won't waste workers to be looked at with dignity and respect. They feel proud of the work they are doing and to get equal opportunities for growth and glory in their profession.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Be fearless and be observant! Fearless to follow our convictions and observant of what solutions the industry needs. These two skills have made me customize my business solutions as per industry needs, bag more projects, and grow more than my peers. I am proud to say that these skills have beautifully worked out for me and our company. I am able to pay full salaries to all my teammates even in lockdown when other companies are bleeding and firing their staff.

One has to be street smart in the entrepreneurial journey; there is no place for naivety in this field. Ronnie Screwvala in his autobiography writes "Not everyone is cut out to be an entrepreneur, but that doesn't mean that should dissuade". I am highly inspired by his writings and would suggest all budding entrepreneurs read the book. As he said, skills can be learned and polished on the job but simultaneously have the courage to face the ups and downs. Learn and read as much as you can about all areas of your business, seek help, whenever required. I have had the good luck of meeting some amazing leaders during networking events, competitions and they have all been supportive and responsive to my queries and shared insights. Seek that for improvement.



HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

In essence, the tree plantation done by the Indian Achievers Club is an extension of the ethos of our company and I am glad that Recity could contribute in its humble way to the biggest tree plantation drive in India. Planting trees can be a unique starting point to initiate a dialogue with fellow citizens on crucial issues affecting the world. As an organization, such events are already an important part of our communication strategies to raise awareness among citizens about rising global warming, baffling consumption patterns and improper waste disposal practices. Our experience says the plantation drives act as a wonderful platform for people to acknowledge various problems affecting our environment and initiate a discourse on systematic changes that are required at both personal and policy levels to combat various environmental issues.



MAHERA GOEL

EDUCATION/ SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION
& LEADERSHIP: PRINCIPAL
FAZLANI L'ACADEMIE GLOBALE

*Professional Development, Leadership Coach,
Speaker/Workshops and Webinars*

Leading Change: Was invited as a Change Maker at the GTPS (Global Tipping Point Summit) to lead the project and conduct a training program for Change/ Action Facilitators on "Advancing Teacher SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) Communities, focused on embedding compassion and empathy within the curriculum design and implementation, thereby promoting wellness during and after the pandemic

Global Collaboration: Was invited to be a Teach SDG's (Sustainable Development Goals) Ambassador; Initiated the Classroom Global Goals Project in the School and was invited to present at the "Global Goals Solutions" event in March 2021

Global Achievements: Was invited by the Harvard Graduate School of Education to be a Mentor and Member of the Interview Panel for the School Leadership Programme 2020-21

Corporate Social Responsibility: Participated in a fundraiser and collected individual funds of over 1,75,000 for Oxygen Concentrators in May 2021 in Mumbai for the Rotary Club SOBO


School Social Responsibility: Initiated and led a crowdfunding campaign with six 9th and 10th graders from Fazlani L'Academie Globale to raise funds for Prosthetics. (Campaign raised 5,60,000, making a difference to 124 lives. Each prosthetic limb costs Rs 4500)



*Mahera has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

 @maheragoel

 9930884618

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

I am Mahera Goel...an educator with a mix of compassion and curiosity!

After walking for over a decade in corporate corridors and playing with numbers, and creative sales pitches, I now wade through spirited aisles filled with playfulness and engaging conversations as the Principal of an IB World School in Mumbai. What excites me about working with schools is the approach towards embracing positive values, inspiring learners, empowering them with a voice, and creating leaders.



The "classroom as a laboratory" would best fit as an analogy to my goals, where it is not just the ticks but the trials that shaped me to become who I am. A Mumbai University Graduate Topper and Alumni of the Harvard University with a Master's in Education Entrepreneurship and School Leadership, I enjoy leading learning across the globe through diverse roles as an Educational leader; International Baccalaureate Educator Network (IBEN) School Team and Workshop Leader, PYP Consultant to schools in Asia Pacific, Vice-Chair of the IB Heads Association (W. Zone), member of the SAIBSA Executive Committee (South Asia International Baccalaureate Schools Association).

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

An accomplishment that stands out for me was growing a network from seven to twenty-three schools as the first Chairperson of the IBPYP Network in Mumbai. Creating a culture of care and open-mindedness in a competitive environment was a joyride for me and a testimony to how a collaborative community can drive change and collective action.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

It is a privilege and pleasure to be recognised amongst the top Achievers of our great nation and am delighted to be selected for the distinguished and prestigious honour.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY? HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?

My bucket list nudges me to balance between my purpose and passions; reading, music, travel and quality time with my family.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

A Teach SDG's (Sustainable Development Goals) Ambassador, the Tree Plantation Drive in India resonates with me the most as I reflect on a time at my current school when all classes were named after different trees, creating ideas for learning and responsibility.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Spirituality is an integral part of my life, begin with a prayer as I step into the world to make a difference each day.



IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

Change is the only constant, and my heart goes out to eradicate disparity, gender discrimination and bring about global unity across boundaries.

I have stepped into two new roles during the pandemic: Director, Youth Services at Rotary Club SOBO and Committee Member for the Alumnae-i Network for Harvard Women India (ANHW). Both are vibrant and passionate tribes that truly believe in selfless service. It reminds me of Ayn Rand's quote: "The question isn't who is going to let me; it is who is going to stop me." I truly believe if each of us can do our part to elevate the spirit and determination of youth globally, we can generate significant impact and benefits for our society.



PAYAL BARBHAYA

IMAGE CONSULTANT
IMAGEBYPAYALSUREKHA

*Image Consultant , Self development
& Etiquette Coach*

*Associated with an active NGO working with under privileged
kids and senior citizens*

Actively involved with rescue and rehoming of abandoned pets

*Executive member of the residents union for the society and
involved with the Swatch Bharat initiative*

Have articles published in the Gujrati MIDDAY newspaper

*Have upcoming articles in couple of other newspapers on power
dressing and self development*

@imagebypayalsurekha

9320109999



*Payal has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

Growing up I was always a young girl who wanted to go out and grab the world by the lapels. It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I decided never to go silent. It is said, Experience is what you get, when you don't get what you want. Personally, my journey is based on the highs and lows that life had to offer and the experiences that I learnt from, to be where I am today! This was my journey, this is my journey - Perhaps, still waiting to explore the moon and reach the stars!

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

The skill of being sociable and approachable to people around - includes family, friends and acquaintances, I was often consulted on matters of personal and professional wellbeing! My experiences and thought process had always been a helpful guide, not only giving a listening ear but also being there to assist in any way possible. I used my spiritual and emotional journey to steer a peaceful solution to a particular problem. From assisting people on building a confident external appearance to advising them on a practical and mature manner of handling domestic conflicts, I came to a point where I needed to find a place for myself in a more organized and professional way. This is what led me to take up an Image Management role by upskilling myself to another level. That's where the journey began and there has never been looking back from then onwards.



HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

It is always motivating to be recognized. A pat on the back, in anyway, is an acknowledgment of hard work. I've always been humbled by the various appreciation responses given by my clients; however, being a part of this initiative by The Indian Achievers Club and been chosen amongst millions to the top 99 achievers of India, is indeed a proud feather on the hat!

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

A major part of my success so far has been because of my attitude on discipline and ethics. And this, was passed over to me by my mother who's been an inspiration and driving force behind my personal and professional journey. Being a part of a tradition Indian joint family, there were multiple roles to play. Starting from being a daughter, sister, wife, daughter in law and then a mother! The roles and responsibilities didn't stop at that. I further inhaled other substantial acts of being a listener, a friend, a coach and a guide. Exhausting was it? Not really! I programmed my mind and managed my time and emotions. Trust me, I didn't get it right the first time! Honestly, not the second and neither the third. Multiple episodes led me to try out different techniques until one day I decided to take the spiritual path. It helped me maintain a balance between my mind and heart. And that's where the magic began. Most times sorted and other times a deep breath and surrender without worrying a lot. Rational and practical solutions to challenges and responsibilities help me maintain the balance I need to function in a day to day life!

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

In my daily routine, introspection is a repeat activity! I end the day with a lot of gratitude and analyzing how and what could have happened differently.

In retrospect, I am proud of myself for whatever I have achieved so far. I am proud that my heart and intentions are and will always be good. I will take pride in the fact that I am never giving up. Also, how I believe and practice that I never have to belittle others in order to feel important in life. I am proud of Me and who I am.... I am proud of becoming a better version and adding value to the community in whatever way possible!

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

Spirituality is a way of life for me. It's a habit. It's a lifestyle. The power of manifestation is a magic I have experienced. Believing in the universe and the super power and at the same time equally having trust on self is a mantra that's helped me overcome obstacles.

I don't agree with dwelling in the past. Have always tried to surrender a worry and move on to finding solutions. Sometimes, it's the mind and thought process that creates unhappy bubbles and make you question your worth...



Best thing to do, and something I've implemented, was to take life as it comes and accept the universe's decision to not have granted something at a particular moment. Believing that either it was not the right time or something better was to replace it, has made me be sane and carry on with life!

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

The principles we live by, in business and in social life, are the most important part of happiness. We need to be careful, upon achieving happiness, not to lose the virtues which have produced it.

Life is too short to wait for the right time. So if decided, do it! Be focused on the current activity in hand. The jack of all trades has always been a master of none. And last but not the least, believe it to achieve it... The power of manifestation is second to none. Think and speak like it's already done.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

Exploitation and cruelty against anything that lives or breathe is heart breaking. Taking away a child's innocence by enforcing child labor is something I am strictly against.

I have always been a strong advocate against animal slaughter. In the words of the great Dalai Lama, Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to man. Just as one wants happiness and fears pain, just as one wants to live and not die, so do other creatures.

Racism of any kind is unacceptable to me. I believe that It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences. Even worst is treating a human differently because of his caste, creed, gender, color or sexual preference.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Don't wait! Don't procrastinate! Just do it!

There is never a right time to do the right thing. You can't wait for the iron to be hot enough to strike it. Be the fire and flame right enough to intensify the iron! It's either Now or Never!

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

Planting Trees - it's a way of life! It's life in fact. Not just for this generation today, but also contributing to a healthy tomorrow is something I, you and each one of us can attempt to do. Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree, you water it and make it survive, you haven't done a thing. You are just talking. So build this intimate contact with Mother Nature and do your bit to make this world a better place to live!



SHREYAA SUMI

INTERNATIONAL MODEL, PAGEANT WINNER, ACTOR

Winner of many beauty pageant titles

Won the Title "Radiant Beauty Mrs South Asia World 2020" held in the USA


Winner of "Mrs India 2020" by Madarase Events held in Chennai, India

International Ambassador & Brand Ambassador

Quarter-Finalist - "Maxim USA magazine cover contest 2021"

Nominee-International Influencer 2021

 @shreyaasumi

 9003077566



Shreyaa has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

My journey has been incredible so far. My first photo shoot was shot by cinematographer for a magazine editorial during my early twenties and it's going stronger than I have imagined. I have experienced many wonderful things by stepping into international modelling as well. The fashion industry is constantly evolving and becoming more inclusive. It's a lot better now and more diverse. I also wish high-fashion brands would push themselves to expand the idea around what beauty really means beyond height/weight/skin tone. Many people think modeling is only about glamour. It takes a lot of grit, confidence and persistence to make it in the industry. Success is a constant work-in progress. The journey has taught me to enjoy the process and not compare myself to others.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I choose modelling because it is my passion and my dream. I love being in front of the camera. I always wanted to make my career in performing arts right from my teenage. I have made my passion and dream into reality only with my efforts and determination without any family background in the media industry. While doing modelling I also got opportunities to act so I took it up. I acted in short films and played a supporting role in a kollywood movie. I also love to dance. Apart from beauty pageants & fashion shows, I have been featured on various magazines' cover page, brand shoots for E-commerce and print shoots. I am born & brought up in India & later moved to California. I wanted to pursue the same after moving to California and that's how I started working with International Brands in the USA.



HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

I feel humbled and honored to have made it to the prestigious list of "Most Inspiring Global Indian 2021". Thanks to Indian Achievers Club for recognizing my talent and hard work. It makes me realise that I have become the change that I wanted to see. The change in perspective of the society, that women's are empowered and they can prove their capabilities beyond barriers in modelling & entertainment industry especially after marriage. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family for their constant support through out all that I choose to do. My husband and my mom are my biggest support system.

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

I practice Gratitude everyday. I balance by setting priorities and I plan my day in advance. I also take rejuvenation days to get energized. We can have it all but not everything at once. Time management is the key. Create a schedule that works best for you. Maintain a healthy lifestyle, it will improve over all well-being.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

I am proud of all my work and accomplishment so far in modelling. I am also proud of all the awards and accolades I have received for my work in the field of fashion & arts. I would cherish the moment of winning a title in an international pageant. I am an Indian-American , so being a South Asian representative , I am proud that I am able to make a difference and bring positive impact through my work on the international platform. On this note, I would like to mention here that I am a proud nominee of International Fashion Model-2021

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

We all experience obstacles in life, things don't always go according to the plan. I have learned to let it go and I find new ways or alternatives. The goal should be the same, just replace the executing method. Accept and trust the process just because something didn't work out at a particular moment , it doesn't mean it will never. I keep working forward with resilience and make it happen anyway. Best way to deal is to avoid dwelling on what went wrong and focus on how to change the situation. Give yourself a break and relax by doing things that will lift up your liveliness.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

There are many definitions of the word "Success" but no matter how you define success for yourself, I believe certain principles of how to be successful remain the same. One of the most important principles for achieving success is get out of your comfort zone and not giving up until your desired goal is accomplished in spite of challenging situations. Take action on your dreams even if it is a small step. Be Consistent and show commitment everyday. Always have a positive attitude towards life.



IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

First of all, the world we live in is already beautiful. If I get the chance to change 3 things, I would create an equal educational & training opportunity for all children including under-privileged so that they can achieve their dreams and become who they want to be. I would eliminate gender discrimination. I would make people practice compassion because we can see the outer change in the world only if people change from within themselves.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Be willing to sacrifice something to build the career you want. Be focused and driven. Be authentic in your own way, Do it for yourself and not because everyone is doing it. Don't ever let your doubt get in the way of your dreams. Embrace & Learn from your failures, it helps you figure out the ways that don't work out. Follow your intuition and believe in yourself.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

I feel glad that I took the right step to be a part of the biggest Tree Plantation Drive in India. I planted 100 trees, my generous contribution would definitely inspire and motivate others to join this noble movement. Yes, Planting trees is a great way to combat Global Warming and Climate change. My message to the readers about Planting trees: I encourage everyone to do something good today for a better tomorrow! It is our responsibility to make the society that we live in, a best place for all of us. When you volunteer to plant more trees you are actually building a sustainable future for everyone. So, dedicate a tree and transform the community.



NEELAM KUMAR

BESTSELLING AUTHOR, INSPIRATIONAL LIFE COACH

Word Spinner, TEDx Speaker, Educator

Neelam's pandemic special bestseller, "I am Invincible—Thirteen True Tales of Courage, Grit and Survival" spread a lot of hope when the air became heavy with hopelessness

Her talk show "The Invincible Talks" (a series of 12 videos) became a lighthouse of courage and hope during the grim pandemic times

She is the Author of 10 life-impacting books

Neelam has successfully empowered 16 generations of teens in crucial Life Skills in that many years of Life Skills Coaching at a premier school in Mumbai

In the 30 years of her successful stint at India's largest steel company, she won prestigious awards and reached a coveted position. As Chief of Communications, she led a team of men and as DGM (Corporate Affairs), she handled the entire Western Region for her company

Having battled 2 Cancers with joy, she has become a Positivity Generator



Neelam has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

**WINNERS
2020**

📷 @lifecoachneelam

☎ 9833140456

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

I believe that it is rare to be born a human being. Therefore, if we waste this privilege by not living with joy and contributing to humanity, we would have wasted this opportunity.

I have used the horror script of my life—early widowhood; single parenting; the unimaginable struggles; three encounters with death (through 2 cancers and 1 meningitis) to live with courage, hope and joy and infuse the world with positivity through my books and motivational talks.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

When I wanted to change my image from a “poor widow” to “a tough, successful professional” I became a steel woman in a male dominated steel industry.

When I discovered that there are many women/people inside me, all jostling for self-expression, I became a writer.

When I discovered that people need hand-holding (from someone who has been through it all) during life’s rocky journey, I became a Life Skills Coach.



HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

Grateful & humbled. But more importantly, immensely motivated to continue making a difference in the world through my words.

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

My morning starts with re-charging my soul with spiritual strength. I chant the life-transforming chant of Nichiren Buddhism and resolve to have a value-filled day.

I follow this up by recharging my body with walking/exercise

Then I simply follow my previously planned To Do list which includes making my family's favourite meals; spending laughter times with them; taking breaks for "me time" with friends; taking sessions on Life Skills and then immersing myself in my reading and writing.

I close my day with determined Daimoku (chanting of the Lotus Sutra) to review my day and ensure I add more value to the next day. The Mystic Law always gives me ample courage and strength to be more productive and try to become a better version of myself with each passing day.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

a) Flooding lives with hope and courage during the pandemic with my hope-filled bestseller "I am Invincible-Thirteen True Tales of Courage, Grit and Survival" and my Talk Show "The Invincible Talks". I feel that in these dark times, I did my bit to bring in the sunshine of hope through my words.

b) Writing actor Manisha Koirala's bestselling biography -"How cancer gave me a new life" (Penguin Random house)

c) Writing India's first joyous book on Cancer- "To Cancer with Love-My Journey of Joy"

d) Getting funded by Mr Ratan Tata and Mr Amitabh Bachchan to write India's first Graphic Novel-"To Cancer with Love-A Graphic Novel"

e) Co-authoring "Our Favourite Indian Stories" with the legend Mr Khushwant Singh and learning the secret of writing a bestseller from him.

f) Being awarded the Nargis Dutt Memorial Trophy for changing the narrative of cancer in India from grimness to hope.

g) Topping in my Masters in Journalism course in the US.

h) But my biggest achievement has been giving the world two wonderful humans-my two children Rajneel and Abhilasha.



HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

In the face of obstacles, I become my own Cheerleader and just get the task accomplished.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

I love challenges. I love winning. I love reaching the finish line and beyond. Success is always determined by the amount of hard work you put in. So I just keep going until I reach the destination I can be personally proud of.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

I would -

- 1) Light up each heart with the highest values of humanity.
- 2) Flood the world with love, kindness, inclusiveness.
- 3) Wipe out all illnesses and sufferings—especially pandemics.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Keep going. Obstacles will arise. But that's the nature of life. Greet obstacles and beat them.
Keep going!

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

We adults have stripped off the very planet which sustains us. The current global warming and climate change is the penalty we are paying.

It is our duty now to leave behind a greener, healthier planet for our children. Instead of running after accumulation of more personal wealth, let us focus on giving our planet its green wealth back. We owe this to the planet we call home.

I feel very proud to be a part of the Biggest Tree Plantation Drive in India. Thankyou so much for this opportunity.

My message: Let us make re-forestation our mission. Let us re-store Mother Earth's green cover. Urgently.



YUVIKA ABROL

MOM COMEDIAN

YUVI.SAYS

Parenting Influencer, Mom Comedian and a Co-Founder of Mumbai Mom Tribe, a Mom Community

One of the only few Mom Influencers in the country to have a National TV Presence

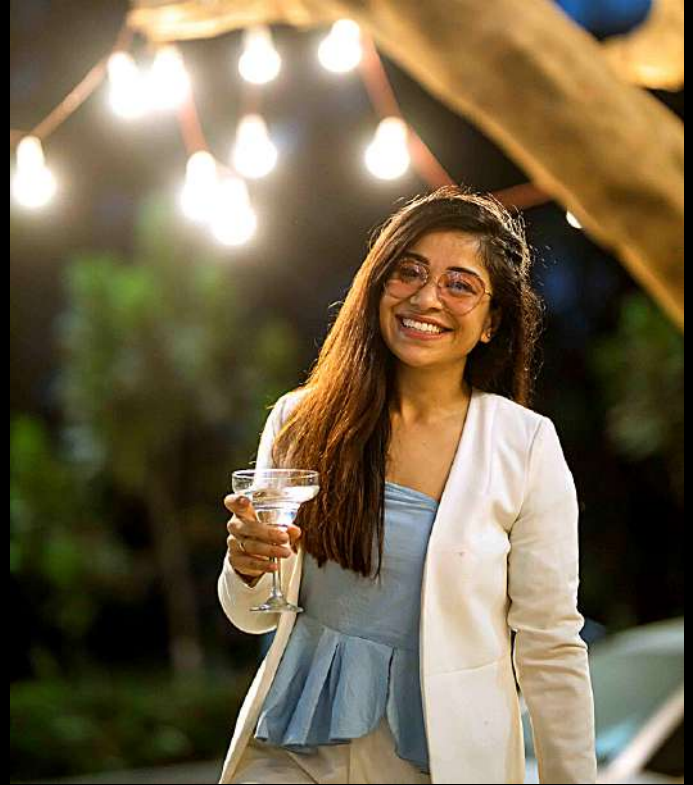
Chosen by Google as an early adopter of their products

Recognised by Proctor and Gamble as one of the Top 5 Mom Bloggers in the Country to be featured in their DVC for OLAY

Recognised by Netflix as a part of focus group for their Subdivision - Netflix for Kids

Successfully Co-founded Mumbai Mom Tribe, A Community of Mothers to help fellow mothers

 @yuvi.says



Yuvika has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

I was successfully running a Wedding Planning Firm when my daughter was born. I took a break from work since it involved travelling and erratic schedule and started clicking her pictures to maintain an 'online journal' in the form of Instagram page. With time, my page with witty and quirky captions back then started attracting like-minded people making it popular. Working with brands gave me the opportunity to monetize on my page. I soon left my Wedding Planning Venture to become a full time Content Creator. Now, I am known for my fun and comedy videos.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

It all started with buying a DSLR for capturing my new born's pictures. Capturing them lead me to post them on Instagram which led me to connect with fellow Mom Bloggers and brands. Since then, there was no looking back.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

It feels surreal and wonderful. A proud moment for me for sure.



**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

My day is packed with my work, my daughter's online schooling and basic household chores. I have to plan my day in advance to make the most of it else I am disoriented. #Mombrain is for real -:) and I forget things if I don't jot it down in my notepad. Also, since my work doesn't have a fixed start and an end point because it's not a 9-5 job, I try to keep my weekends off work completely. No phone calls, no mails, no content creation. I spend that time with family.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

Getting associated with Google, Netflix and having digital appearances on various shows with the likes of Sunny Leone, Nisha Rawal representing Mom Community have been such moments that I am proud of. Also, some of my videos going viral and getting featured by Instagram itself is a great high for me. People addressing me with my onscreen character's name indicates that my audience is liking my work and that is a personal achievement for me.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

I am blessed to have a great team at work and they always encourage me to keep going. In my case, more often than not, things done from the heart have always surprised me with great results whereas things done with a lot of planning and strategies have mostly disappointed me!

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

I keep reminding myself of these two sayings which are my mantras 'No Pain No Gain' and 'The Harder I work, the Luckier I get'. Besides these, I also believe in upgrading oneself to keep that factor of newness alive on my page. My field is entertainment- and retaining audience attention is very important. Hence, I keep experimenting with my content. When I sense something is getting repetitive, I introduce a new character or a series to stay relevant and afresh. Currently, I am learning a new skill which I will soon introduce on my page and hopefully that will add a new dimension to it.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

Cliché but want to change Patriarchy Society, I wish I could do something about Mother Earth leading to so many climatic changes.

I wish I had some sort of Time Machine to go back in time and make a few corrections in my life and then go ahead in time to know future so I would work on things accordingly and channelize my time and energies in those directions.



IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Don't over think, just start and give it enough time. Don't expect immediate results. If you are passionate about something, it will work.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

When I got to know about this drive, I immediately wanted to be a part of it. In reality, we all know there's no magic stick and we can't change anything that has

happened. However, with such drives, we can definitely change and shape our future better and leave a green world for our kids. Aforestation is the one of major solutions to Climate Change. I want to even take my daughter to the area and involve her in the drive too.

A message - Please please please keep the surroundings as clean as you keep your homes. Use dustbins. Segregate the waste. Try and use eco friendly items with sustainable products.

All these things are very doable as long as one has the will and wish to think of environment.



DR. ANKITA SINGH

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
& GLOBAL HEAD OF HR /CHRO
CIGNEX

Founder: Human Resource Association Of India


*Awarded by Forbes India and Great Manager Institute as
Top 100 People Manager in India*

*National President- HR: WICCI (Women's Indian Chamber of
Commerce & Industry)*

President and Trustee: XENA World Care Foundation

*HR Management Committee in Della Leaders Club for
Ahmedabad Chapter*

 @singhankita14

 9601250757



*Ankita has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

The journey so far has been challenging yet amazing. Last 17 years, I have been working with the same group. It has been a tremendous learning experience to evolve with the company and grow with it. We have progressed through all thicks and thins together. It feels magnificent to know that there is so much to give and get, even after many years. I have been fortunate enough to receive support from everybody around me. I have always had an incredible team, outstanding mentors, and the best family to take care of all that needed attention.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

The start was by default, I just landed in HR, but it didn't take much time for me to realize that I appreciate being part of that function and I can sensibly learn and contribute, and then there was no looking back. Today I head all business enabling functions like admin, IT, travel, and PMO, but the core is still HR and will remain.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

I feel humbled and overwhelmed that I am part of the top 99 Achievers of India, and I share the space with such eminent people. I am happy that I can contribute in my little way, and I am thankful to the Indian Achievers Club team for this recognition. It inspires me to do more.



**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

It's challenging to find a perfect balance, and something would suffer. Still, I try to follow the 30:40:30 rule. 30% mental and physical health, 40% work and community contribution, and 30% self-development and family.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

To be listed among the top 100 people manager by Forbes India and GMI. I also feel gratified about being able to support 57 kids for their education and food. Recently I founded HRAI, which gives immense pleasure to be able to contribute to the fraternity.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

I Stop, reevaluate to understand what's under control and what's not, and then give my 100% to achieve the best possible result. The Key is to stay determined.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Stay authentic and nimble, never compare yourself to others, never underestimate your capabilities, invest well and stay relevant.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

Remove biases, borders, and bureaucracy.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Be your best, don't ever give up!

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

It's more than just a solution to global warming and climate change. It's a great feeling of coming together and doing your bit. I feel privileged, honored, and humbled to be a part of the Biggest Tree plantation Drive in India. The feeling of being proud is as humongous as the initiative.

It's a personal choice, but definitely, we need more people to realize the importance of their contribution to society. As Mother Teresa rightly said, "It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving."



DR. YATRI THACKER

HOMEOPATHIC WELLNESS PHYSICIAN,
MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT,
INTERNATIONAL CHILDBIRTH EDUCATOR

DR YATRI THACKER, BABY & ME PROGRAMS

HOLISTIC WELLNESS DOCTOR, MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER, WRITER

Dr Yatri has treated thousands of patients suffering from psychosomatic diseases

Has written various HEALTH related ARTICLES that were published in BOMBAY TIMES, FEMINA, DNA newspaper, MOTHER & BABY magazine

Recently got INDIA'S care hero by BABYCHAKRA and also got award for EXCELLENCE IN HOMEOPATHY by the Indian health professional award

She has conducted various free medical camp with Times foundation

She is an Active in-house medical doctor with Womens Movement for Peace and Prosperity foundation for underprivileged

During pandemic she conducted free Counseling services for SMC group. Also she created complimentary WhatsApp group called RESET THINKING wherein various tools were shared to deal with stress and anxiety for 21 days. Apart from this complimentary Homeopathic 'Immunity kits' were provided to health care workers

@dryatrithacker

9820765151



Yatri has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS 2020

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

For me it's been a beautiful journey so far. A journey of self-learning and knowing importance of balance. A journey which includes patients from different religion, geographical areas, caste and creed and yet all so similar as beings. Treating patients for me is not merely prescribing medicines. Its understanding their core issues, giving apt guidance, understanding mind- body connection leading to diseases and finally CURING rather than TREATING them.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

As a child I always wanted to be a doctor. Coming from a family where my aunts were doctors and the family's belief in homeopathy made it easy for me to make a career choice.

My breakthrough in realising my strengths and aptitude to understanding human mind came when I had gone to help Kutch earthquake victims in 2000. Here just by conversing with victims made them feel better. My empathy toward their pain made it easy for them to relive pain. So decided to undertake psychology post bachelors in homeopathy.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

I am in total gratitude and feel honoured for this achievement. It gives me more responsibility to spread health wellness awareness and contribute to others in my ways.



**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

BALANCE has been a key word in my life. I try and bring balance in every aspect of my life be it social, food, work, fun, health, family and kids.

My day typically starts with meditation, exercise and making priority list for the day. I outline fixed timings for work, spending quality time with kids and family.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

Love and support from my family, receiving awards, name and fame surely make me feel proud. But my greatest achievement is when I took a sabbatical from work for few years to take care of my kids who really needed me. After two years of sabbatical got a call from old patient who pleaded me to treat her and thus restarted my practice.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

Meditation, reading good books and introspection are few things I do regularly to take things in my stride

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

- 1) Follow a profession that you like and comes easily to you.
- 2) Keep upgrading your skills and knowledge
- 3) Hire efficient team members and appreciate their efforts
- 4) Make priority list every day and finish your tasks on time
- 5) Be in gratitude for all that you receive

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

I would change people's sufferings, would change the global warming and abuse on mother earth, would change the emotion HATRED into LOVE in everyone's life.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND YOUR CREATION

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

It's a great initiative taken by Maharashtra government and feel privileged to be a part of it. We all should together take responsibility to grow trees and in turn reduce global warming as EVERY DROP OF WATER IS IMPORTANT TO AN OCEAN.



NIDA CHAKRABORTY MAMIK

Techno Producer, DJ, Podcast Host, Actor

Played Lead roles for Various Teen Shows

Headlined a few cities in India

Opened for a Bunch of International and National pioneers of Techno

Released music on Indian and International Labels

Hosts a Residency On an International Techno Radio based in Paris

Hosts a Podcast that reaches a Global Audience

 @nidachakraborty  9930099012



*Nida has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

Well, My journey starts very young. My journey has also been very haphazard. I started training in classical music and Classical dancing- Kathak when I was very young and I went on to do that for a few years. However, I somehow felt it didn't completely resonate with me even though I did enjoy it.

Further, I took up keyboard classes for fun, I learned playing a few songs and I also was a Shiamak student for many years. As a child, I was always very fascinated with acting as emoting and being dramatic came very naturally to me and so, I also went on to take acting classes to build on that. As I hit 14, I started auditioning; after a lot of rejections, I bagged a role that had a split second screen time for a commercial. That was my very first break!

After a couple of commercials post that, I was casted for a character role in a Channel V show called Gumrah; where for the first time I actually got the chance to really act. That ended up going so well, The team and the Channel really loved it and ended up Recasting me as a lead in another episode for the same season and that had never happened in the history of Gumrah until then..or so I was told haha. That's where it all actually started. I went on to do a bunch of shows for Channel V and MTV and other Teen Channels post that along with a bunch of commercials. However, these roles/ shows were never consistent, which meant that the money was never consistent. Having Parents that come from a background of steady work and income, this would really worry me from time to time. And so in-between project lulls; I would push myself into getting experience in other fields and genuinely trying to be good at it; just so I'd have something going for me incase I failed.



I Interned at a Radio station, where I helped produce shows and content for it. I learned what Press conferences were about. I made interview questions for celebrities and I did a lot of field work for content. I also have spent a few months working as a PR Executive- Networking and meeting people from Mainlines to websites to companies. I was the Junior Creative Producer at Conde Nast Video where I also learned a lot. I Met influential people, I got better at networking, We worked on content and shoots and events. I learned a lot from these jobs and have never once regretted being part of any of it. They've all contributed to being a part of who I am. It changed the way I looked at things- the society always tells you that you could be good at one thing and that one thing defines you. I realised - Sometimes you can be good at a bunch of things if you put in the work for it; and all those things then add to who you are. By then all the acting jobs that were out there were mostly stereotypical- girl next door. Girl meets boy etc. Putting women in a box- Very few roles give women the power. I wasn't satisfied in being portrayed in that light anymore. I'd done that and I wanted to do more and I wanted to be in control of the narrative and express creativity my way that showcases the raw me. Back then, In between the jobs and acting, I used to visit a friend who is a Music Producer. I was very curious and intrigued by the whole process. I would be parts of meetings with artists and I would watch the whole process. The bare idea that then was a track. With the support of my Folks and my partner- who is now my husband, I used this inspiration to study music production and completely start afresh. It was overwhelming, sometimes confusing, and testing for my loved ones as I picked up and dropped a bunch of things like Drumming, Singing- while I tried to find my way in the massive sea of Music. I finally found my calling for Producing and DJing Techno. I finally found what I completely resonate with and I use it to express myself with complete freedom. I also started a Podcast that is in the spirit of helping my fellow artists in knowing, everyone has a journey and everyone gets confused. And it's important to keep believing and striving.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

Once I found my calling, I needed to get gigs. And I didn't know how to go about it, I wasn't with any agency; so I made a list of bars/ clubs in and around my locality. I made a profile of mine, I made a set. I would then call up these bars/ clubs and insist on speaking to the manager. I would then pitch myself as an artist stating that I'd love the opportunity to play my music at their establishment. I would then email them the artist profile I had put together. After a lot of crickets and I'm sorry's; There was one manager at TGIF who said they had been contemplating trying out new music. And so he gave me my first gig- which I obviously did Pro-bono. Social media has played a major role in Networking, finding the right people and sharing my work which then helped in bagging the gigs I really wanted.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

Honestly, I'm still Processing. However I'm extremely grateful and overwhelmed. I'm also excited that being a part of this platform will help me make bigger plans that can involve other female artists and fuel creativity on a larger scale.



**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

Before I delve into my day; I would like to address the second half of the question.

I request that as a society, we should reflect on why we ask the age-old question of family-work balance to women over the years, But never to men in their narratives? Just something to think about as we are on the path of progression.

Coming back to the first half :)

I don't have a set way of going through my day. When I'm thriving on an idea, I spend days and nights in my studio but then, there are also days at end that I completely disconnect; unless I've picked up a freelance project.

But in general; I believe inspiration comes in waves and you got to ride it when they hit. However, I have come to learn that you must use the time in-between to learn as much as you can in order to constantly grow and to solve your own limitations. I do consciously try to incorporate this in my life even though, I don't always succeed.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

Everything that I've been a part of has brought people in my journey from all walks of life. It's given me a lot of perspective and a genuine sense of connection. This is one of the things that I really treasure. I even met my life partner through it. All steps that have taken me further in my journey have had to do with the people that saw something in me and gave me a chance to take it forward from there on the basis of my merit. And the fact that these complete strangers at some point believed in my talent when no one did, has given me a great sense of achievement. All the channels that featured me in different roles over and over, The record labels both Indian and International that released my tracks, That manager at TGIF who gave me my first gig, The people who gave me the first chance to open for one of the international pioneers of Techno, The people who gave me my first Headlining Gig, The first Guest Artist on my Podcast, The people who gave me my first international Festival, The people who gave me guest slots and eventually a Residency on an International Techno Radio :) And you continue to feel it with every new step and I'm looking forward to that because I have so much more to offer.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

Things are never going to go as smoothly as planned. And as an artist you will ALWAYS have self doubt from time to time. What helps me is- I find stories of the artists that I look upto- To know their starting points like we all have, their rejections that we all face, their journey, their ups and downs, their self doubts- It educates me in knowing we're all the same. And it inspires me to work on myself and continue believing. This is the very reason I started my Podcast- In order for fellow Artists to listen to the stories of the Guest Artists and realise we're all the same. And at the end of the day; If they can, You can.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Believing in yourself is key. Once you do, Visualise what you want and then gun it. Put in your whole soul in working on yourself. Just go for it.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

First I'd use my magic stick to eliminate all kinds of violence. Violence against people, Violence against women and children. Violence against Homosexuals, Violence against Transgenders. Violence against animals, Violence against Countries. All of it.

Second, I'd eliminate borders, and with it- the Hierarchy amongst the countries.

Third, Free healthcare for the elderly worldwide.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Don't be Intimidated by how much there is to learn. Start by setting small goals. And work towards achieving them. Learning will never stop; However you can keep growing and getting better. And no matter what, If you really care about it- Don't let anyone else tell you otherwise.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

I'm stoked to be a part of something that is so important. Planting trees is very crucial in slowing down Global warming. We're already too late, and I must admit that I haven't done enough to say that I've done my bit. So Lets just say, this is a beginning towards taking steps in the direction of making a genuine effort. My extended Family however have been an inspiration here, as they have a farm in Dahanu and they continue to grow trees as they have been since years:)



RESHMA MEHTA

ENTREPRENEUR

RE.MEH, TRIYA ZIKHARA, TRAVEL COMPANIES

*Travel Specialist, Travel Consultant,
Travel Influencer*

Becoming a Paul Harris Fellow (P.H.F.)

*2 awards presented by Rotary Club of Mumbai
Divas for appreciation and support*

Women empowerment through travel

Founder of an all women travel company

*Balancing my passion alongside my family
and home*

📷 @triyazikhara @reshmamehta 📞 9820148775



*Reshma has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

Travel. My passion. An ecstatic feeling of bliss and self-discovery. Travel has opened multiple doors for me. Doors of endless opportunities. My purpose in life is to share my experiences and empower women to do the same and ultimately grow into well rounded stronger personalities that are on the path to Self-improvement and discovery. To learn about other cultures, tradition, religions and beliefs expands the mind, demolishes the ego and most of all unifies the entire human race. I want to guide women into these experiences that they can cherish them for life and tell stories about it to their children and grandchildren.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I grew up in "SOBO", always had a flair for the social sciences history & geography, and never got bored!

As life rolled in and so did my love for travel , I found myself drawn in discovering and exploring unique places and locales.., researched , designed , planned and executed all by myself 45 countries and counting I thought I needed to give something back to society. Thus began my quest as a travel influencer...



..I yearn for new experiences, to venture out of my comfort zone. The benefits one receives when they step out and explore are endless in terms of personal growth and self-development. These experiences build character and personality that propel us into being better versions of ourselves so that we can grow and inspire those around us. Many philosophers have thoughtfully proclaimed that the only way to fix the world, if there was one was to first fix yourself. To fix yourself, you need to work on yourself and build your character. For me, travel has built my character and I want to share that feeling with other people. This is not a career.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

I feel honored and inspired. It's motivating to be a part of this esteemed organization and very humbling indeed.

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

My day starts with a win. A win in terms of spending time with my husband and son and also a win in terms of fitness. That's right. I start my day with hitting the gym.

A holy trinity to energize my body and get into a great headspace to fuel my day ahead.

Post this, I manage the house. Delegating tasks to my staff and following up to check if everything is orderly. Then I start my work. Currently handling 2 companies simultaneously. My business models are based on extreme productivity, delegation and strategy. My day ends at 8pm, which is when we have a family dinner including my husband son and my in laws.

This is the time to chat, and share an enjoyable meal together.

I am a big believer of self-love and self-care so I make it a point to relax and get some me time. This allows me to wind down mentally.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

Triya means women and Zikhara means on top. Put together it means women on top.

The inception and creation of Triya Zikhara- my travel company is the biggest achievement of my life. It is a bundle of my love and affection for travel that I've channeled into this company. The experiences my company offers is all a reflection of my mission that is disciplined to empower women through travel.

TZ motivates me to continue pursuing my purpose and mission and this is not an achievement per se but a journey that has no achievement because it is limitless.



HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

Passion. One word. Many interpretations.

My growth is rooted in passion. My motivation is rooted in passion. I love what I do. It's as simple as that

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Equality & Honesty

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

- Enough food for every human being
- women empowerment
- Preservation and more plantation of trees and forests

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"Give yourself wings to fly and sky is the limit"

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

Mother Earth. Mother Nature. It nourishes us. Feeds us. Protects us. And most of all makes us feel at home.

Why would we destroy our home?

Why would we intentionally create problems such as pollution when we clearly know the consequences?

These questions demand self-reflection and self-analysis. Once we realize this, it is our duty to do our part and at least protect and preserve Mother Nature.

Planting trees is a beneficial means of increasing oxygen levels in the atmosphere and providing opportunities for ecosystems to flourish. I'm honored to be a part of this club that encourages this act. I believe in miracles, hence, I believe that global warming and climate change can be managed and mitigated. Planting trees is the best way to begin!



SHUBHRA AGGARWAL

BRAND STRATEGIST AND SOLUTION EXPERT
OFFBEET MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS LLP

Digital Marketing, Social Media & Community Management, Client Engagements, Product Value Proposition, Brand Management

Being part of 'Teach for Ladakh' program to give services as a volunteer to teach the primary school kids

Has been part of 'The Blue Cross of India' by giving aid in form of monetary donations to help all creatures who have been abandoned or abused and are injured or disabled

A regular monetary contributor in 'GiveIndia Foundation' & funding education for two underprivileged kids

At the local level with an association with Himalayan Eco-lodges, and has initiated the clean the Himalayas drive

Has participated in 'GlobalHimalayanexpedition', during her trek her being a volunteer, she has brought a change in one village by bringing light through solar energy



Shubhra has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

@sassyadventurer03

9819694739

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

I am the girl with a mind that never sleeps. Ever since I can remember, I've been coming up with ideas and projects or goals to tackle. I find a lot of satisfaction in choosing a goal and seeing it through until the end. It's how I learn and grow as a person. My friends and peers call me an adventurer - a child whose curiosity never dies with age and eager to learn new things because I always aim to live life to the fullest.

I'm a little obsessed with freedom, the whole thing about freedom is that you're FREE TO CHOOSE whatever lifestyle you want. It could mean working from home or work in a place that gives you the flexibility to think out of the box not only in the field of work you are in but also gives you the liberty to perform in areas of interest and passions or get more time to spend with family/friends, more time hiking or cycling, or creating something interesting out of the junk.

The idea of life for me was never just...get a job, find someone, get married, have kids, grow old die; I'd always had unconventional ways of living my life starting from teaching to underprivileged kids, to contributing aid for creatures who are abandoned or abused, or becoming a voice to create awareness to save the Himalayas and Environment, painting canvases, climbing mountains...



and excelling in all kinds of sports or picking up a job which gives me the flexibility to fulfill my passions...it's never the obvious route which excites me:-)

As a kid, I was seemed to never be paying attention in class...seemingly in my own world of doodles and drawings. Loves when an inner kid takes command... which is full of creativity and curiosity. My earliest memories of creating happened in my study room where I painted walls with quotes/songs, creating stuff out of my junk, making celebration cards/ candles, painting waste bottles, canvases, and so on. Thanks to my mom who has always encouraged me to learn something new every summer vacation. Honestly, I'd argue that the best gifts one can give to their dear ones are handmade, buying something expensive which may be an overrated concept for me or a superficial gesture.

After high school, I thought my horizons needed broadening. I attended college, went to one of the best colleges in Delhi on North Campus... Thought this is it... what else did you want but I guess that was just the beginning to expose you to new freedom!

I had blast in my college days, which helped me to get a job, and gave me a chance to wear black pumps to work every day.

This seems like a perfect life, right?? – good job, handsome salary blah blah...but I guess I was not cut out to become just another corporate slave where you realize you tend to lose control of your real self, what I always love the most was not a typical conventional life but a life which I am living currently.

My first love was always in the outdoors and giving back to society in some manner...doing my backpacking trips/treks to some hills which have helped me to understand the regions in higher altitudes better, the problems the local faces in these remote areas, and how as an individual I can help them in uplifting their economic standards at some level. There is always some thrill when I am traveling, exploring places that are unheard of or less traveled.

Knowing my love for trekking...A lot of people in my circle asks questions, do Trekkers learn Life Lessons while trekking, or it's just a time-wasting activity with no outcome at the end?

Well, being a passionate mountain or Himalayan lover, I can only say it teaches you something which probably any conventional job will not be able to do so, it makes you humble and helps you able to see life with different dimensions. You understand the real meaning of your life than living a superficial life which we tend to live otherwise.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I'm a semi-pro mountaineer and an adventurer and a creative person by heart and spend most of my spare time to get better in both these areas of my interest, this has helped me grow not just personally but professionally as well. In fact, all my vacation time in the past few years has been used to learn something new and keep exploring life with a whole new perspective. So, if I may say safely, I picked up a media job because I had this creative streak, I get satisfaction when I am doodling or thinking solution for brands or the other side, I chose these adventure sports like trekking/cycling or spending time in The Himalayas with locals because that is my happy place, I feel at home and be real and grounded.



HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

While I am honored to get an award like this, yet at the same time, it feels too good to be true since I believe there are so many more deserving people who have given a lot more for bigger causes and I aspire to follow their path. This honor definitely makes me humbler and more responsible since I want more and more people to come forward and help the needy than only building their respective careers.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY? HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?

So being an early riser, my day starts as early as 5 am generally with a dose of meditation, followed with run + yoga session + daily household chores and then with my office job. The most interesting part of my job is that there is no 'typical day'. One day I would be busy scheduling meetings and the other day I would be supervising my employees. Maybe the next day I would be busy making presentations for some client meetings or tutoring the trainees. If the job is unpredictable and calls for efficiency, I try my best to reach that level. My evenings are generally lighter since I prefer spending with family, go out for walks, and cooking early meals so that I could spend time watching something interesting on some OTT platform or read something interesting with my husband before calling it a day.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

I believe that my greatest achievement is not just that I worked in few of the biggest media houses but the learnings I got from my experiences and then able to give it back to society in some way by working as a volunteer to teach the underprivileged or helping monetarily for some of the causes I truly believe in. I genuinely think Being wholesome means being a participant in the society or community that needed education or services in some manner, though I know I am not a skilled teacher in real but I think whatever little I managed to do for the needy I got some sort of satisfaction and gained the kind of experience which is hard to describe.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

Just because things aren't going the way as planned doesn't mean your journey is over. Take this moment to observe the problem in a different way, and hopefully, it will help you find the solution you've been looking for. "Remember that when something isn't working out, it's because there's an opportunity for a new way of thinking, acting, or being. That's my mantra of life.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

There is a beautiful quote I have read somewhere which works in my personal growth as well that 'Failure is about perspective'; there is no such thing unless you deem it that. People who are successful today understand that failure is an illusion created inside our minds, and it performs mental alchemy to construct an empowering reality instead. When people chase after a goal, two things generally happen: either you achieve the desired result, or you get feedback. Falling short of your goal isn't a failure, it's a lesson one learns for next time.



IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

- I would like the world should be a much greener place say about 60% of land area under forest than what it is today.
- I would love to stay in a world where people are more humane with animals than the way I see it today across the globe.
- There shouldn't be religious wars anywhere in the world since I totally believe in the religion of spirituality.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Well, I just want to say don't be scared of failures, yes! You WILL fail. Success will not look like what you have in mind and is only achievable if you don't give up as you will fail along the way. Failing is only the end if you quit. Be prepared to pivot, be comfortable with being wrong, and expect everything to fall short of your goals. Winning will come but only if you're able to weather the beat down you're about to get.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

Pollution and climate change is one of the most serious problems that are faced by the whole world. There are so many toxic constituents which are polluting our environment that I am scared whether incoming years we'll be left with breathable air at all or end up surviving only on oxygen cylinders. We all have learned that trees are boon for us. These are our true friends if we understand the real meaning of it. They just don't work as a purifier but as the real lungs of the earth. Think world without trees, the impact it does on the climate likes soil erosion, floods, or droughts. It is very heinous when I see human beings the way they are clearing the forests and cutting the trees for their personal interest indulging in deforestation at such an alarming scale. By cutting the trees, we are not making our lives easy but disturbing the whole ecological system.

I can only say if all of us show little concern or become a little more responsible by growing more and more trees around and practice afforestation then we do the biggest favor not only to ourselves but also for the future generations because 'Saving trees can only save our lives for good'.



NEHA BANSAL

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERT
FOUNDER, 'ASIANISM RETOLD'
INDIA COUNTRY LEAD - GLOBAL FUND TO END
MODERN SLAVERY

Social Policy Expert

Successfully founded 'Asianism Retold'- an initiative in preventive diplomacy on the values that shape Asia's influence in geopolitics, development and in shaping the next set of global international concepts like human rights etc.

Successfully managed an equally demanding commitment to Indian classical dance- Kathak whilst juggling an equally demanding career with the United Nations and other international development organisations with performances in India and abroad.

📷 @bansalneiha

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*Neha has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

I started my career writing stories that had a deep effect on me arising from political and social events of those years. These were events and topics like the controversial Babri Masjid demolition and communal riots of 1993; the stigma around living with HIV; the life and relations of a sex worker. These stories were always about human beings sometimes seemingly the most insignificant human being caught in a very significant situation- for example it was about a bird seller who fell in love with a mannequin during the 1993 Babri Masjid riots. While the story depicts the political unfolding's of this event, it talks about the focus of this bird seller which was to convince the mannequin to speak to him. He had mistakenly believed her to be a real person and had fallen in love with her. He could not understand her silence. This perhaps was symbolic of the frustration with my own self and of my own silence of not being able to say anything during the 1993 communal riots in Mumbai.

Or then it was the scene that I can still not get out of my mind. This scene was that of a grandfather walking his grandson to school. Hand in hand they both went oblivious or wanting to be oblivious of the fact that in the windows they passed, were young sex workers waiting for their clients. One among them was a sex worker waiting for her lover- a lover who was blind, a boy just a little older than the boy being walked to school by his grandfather. For me this was about the lives that flow parallelly to each other but yet so different and the points of intersections between them, even if they are fleeting.



These were true stories depicted through theatre, at leading theatres of the country and with critical acclaim and coverage from the media- selected young achiever by NDTV, the Hindu, Indian Express, Hindustan times, etc.

Thereafter I was invited to join the United Nations where I spent 10 years against Transnational Organised Crime issues like anti-human trafficking, unsafe smuggling of migrants, forced labour especially children and women. At the UN I used my vision to connect to the common person's sentiments and present their stories at international for a; learnt from doing with my own hands and grew through the ranks. In 2016, I continued the work I started at the UN by joining the Government of the United Kingdom, Department for International Development (as it was known then) as a senior civil servant. In 2018, I was selected by Harvard University for a second Masters in Public Policy.

Currently I serve two roles- as the Asia Fellow with Harvard University, Democratic Governance and Innovation where I am developing an initiative on 'Asian Retold' putting people's values, experiences and stories at the centre for development rather than high reaching concepts alone. Besides this I am also, India Country Lead for the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery. Besides this I also spend my time as an Indian classical dancer- Kathak which to me is more than a full time career.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

My career chose me. I was always committed to people, their lives and unique stories and the changes they go through against the context of big political and social upheaval. However, I never envisaged joining an International body like the United Nations or other International Development bodies like the Government of the UK. However I believe that when any person follows what they want to do with sincerity and without thinking about the results the universe opens doors and avenues for them to grow and contribute more.

The same happened with me. I was staging an important play and in the audience was seat Asia Pacific Head of one of the largest advertising companies of the world. She was a blessing and came in to open many doors for me. She called me after the show evening and offered me a job. At the advertising company I started my more formal career for the first time. But it was here too that the law of the universe played out. I was asked to work and design a campaign for UNICEF i.e. a development initiative. A few years later, as mentioned above I was invited to join the UN directly. But to answer the question, my career and path chose me. So the way I got in to the career was really being sincere and honest to the stories and lives of people which I continue to do even now- it was this that opened many paths for these people and for me too.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

It feels great. However honestly for me it is less about what I have achieved in the past and more a call of responsibility for the future. The responsibility to work harder and to continuously add my voice and efforts behind those perspectives that are not reflected adequately in development or policy. Perspectives that are absolutely vital to the dignity and agency of people. So I am looking forward to have with me the community of the other 98 awardees, the Indian Merchants Chamber and I hope to be a positive contributor to them as well



**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

I start my day reading something inspiring like a book from my famous author, an idea from an artist, leader, someone even like the house help or a story from a common man- just something very human, very real and but always something positive. Thereafter there is always an hour for Riyaz (dance) or some exercise.

The bulk of my day is spent at work which is almost equally divided between my two roles at Arianism Retold and the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (GFEMS)- but there too I have a stipulated and limited time for emails, meetings. I focus more of my time debating through an idea, researching or writing about it. I limit my time on social media even though I believe platforms like face book etc are important. I love my 11:00 am coffee which is quite a ceremony of savour for me.

My work day ends at about 7:30pm with time spent with the family, my parents, cooking and time with friends from across the world- At the moment this time with friends is wholly via conversations on the phone due to the pandemic even though I am not a phone person. I love home meals especially the dinner table or kitchen counter conversations with friends. If it was not for the pandemic I do spend one evening of the week watching an art performance. It could be dance, music anything and from any part of the world.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

The greatest achievement for me has always been about the first story I wrote and directed in the form of a theatrical play- 'Dear Diary'. This was a play about a young girl who is diagnosed with HIV. In those years i.e. 1998 the myths and stigma around HIV was very high. The play busts the stigma around HIV. But it is also more than that. It is a dialogue about the changes that relationships and people undergo in the face of death. Dying is something. But living with the heightened awareness and knowledge that you will die is something totally else. HIV does that. So for me it was the craftsmanship of depicting a challenging subject with sensitivity and intelligence. I had no experience in dealing with HIV, or in writing and certainly none in producing a play. But following my instincts, common sense, listening and learning from all that I had watched myself and of course an amazing team, this play was a roaring success. It was covered by all the newspapers and TV channels. Extracts from this play was used by a Coffee table book on HIV- and I was only about 19 when I wrote this play.

There may have been many others achievements thereafter from joining the UN, being selected at Harvard, starting my own programme but this much more inconspicuous achievement is always my biggest- because I was a complete novice and had only myself to rely on then.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

Firstly I usually go to sleep during those times or go to the movies. I'm not someone who waits for things to happen to me usually - good or bad. So thereafter it is always about the next option and what I can do. I prefer to just get up and get going even if the original path is obstructed. What keeps me encouraged are books, deep conversations and people's stories.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Only two- self-reliance and the second is what Turkish writer Rohan Puku said, you can't be a tree you have to be its meaning. Similarly I have tried not just to be a woman, a policy maker, or a dancer but to be their meaning. To really understand the role that a policy maker or a dancer must play and to get closer each day to playing that role.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

- Raise the quotient of common sense and emotional intelligence
- More spaces for lovers to love, sit in gardens, share poetry and spend time with each in peace.
- Safety and a loving family for every child

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Don't look over your shoulder for who helps or supports or agrees with you. Just follow your deepest instinct with complete honesty, fearlessness and humility and self-reliance. The world is waiting for someone like you.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

Yes. But planting trees is but just one solution. We need the concern for climate change and the environment to move out of scientists laboratories, policy debates, global panels and in to our drawing rooms. For that we each have to develop a relationship with nature. We each must create more opportunities for ourselves and our families to interact with nature and really spend time with it. Only then will we each find our own ways to care for it- and God only knows we need many and every way to do so now.



HIMALI VYAS NAIK

VOCALIST, PERFORMER

Multi-genre Singer, Experimental Musician, Performer

Trained in Hindustani classical as well as Western Rock and Pop music with degrees from Akhil Bhartiya Gandharv Mahavidyalaya Mandal and Trinity College, London.

Recipient of multiple state level awards like Shreshtha Kala Saadhak, Best Playback Singer, Kavi Shree Ravji Patel Yuva Pratibha Award etc., by the Government of Gujarat, Gujarat Sangeet Natak Academy in various fields of music such as Indian classical, regional and folk.

Has worked with international music labels like Universal music, MTV Indies, Times music etc. And has given playback for 15 urban Gujarati films.

Is the only Gujarati artist to have performed the American National Anthem Star Spangled Banner on the soil of America for twice.

Has performed Indian classical, fusion, regional, folk, western rock and pop and Bollywood music all over India, USA, UK, China, Thailand and middle eastern countries.

📷 @himalivyasnaik

☎ 9769027792



Himali has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

My journey in the field of music started at the tender age of 4 with learning Indian classical music. I then participated in various state and national level competitions in the school and college. I learned and started singing certain other genres of music such as bollywood, ghazals regional and folk music while growing up and then after coming to Mumbai, I got trained in western music under the able guidance of Samantha Noella. I started performing music professionally at the age of 16. I have performed with the renowned artists such as Shaan, Pt. Krishna Mohan Bhatt, Padma Shri Purushottam Upadhyaya, Shri Ashit Desai, Parthiv Gohil and Osman Mir and have travelled the world for the past 15 years for my performances.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I am blessed to be born into a family with a strong background in arts and academics. I inherit music from my parents and grand parents. My mother, a writer and a compere, having learned Indian classical vocal herself, put me for a formal training of Indian classical music at a very early age after observing my keen interest in notes and beats. My father, an engineer and a government officer who also plays tabla always encouraged me to give my best to everything I pursued. My parents took me to watch and hear the performances of world renowned musicians. At our place, my parents played all kinds of music in our house ranging from Indian classical to ghazals, Bollywood to western classical. Hence, the hobby gradually turned into a profession.



HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

It feels astounding. It's a huge honour to be a part of the league of such talented and skillful 99 Women Achievers of India. I feel humbled and all the more responsible now.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY? HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?

So, when I am in town, my day usually begins with a cup of tea and a hearty breakfast followed by an hour of workout and an hour of morning riaz. I step out of the house after lunch. My days are occupied with recordings, meetings and shoots and usually I have live performances at night (this is before the pandemic hit). I have a different schedule whenever I am travelling for work. Balancing work life and professional life is almost a cakewalk for me as I am blessed to be married into a family of musicians. My husband is a clinical psychologist and a writer and both my in laws are musicians. We all respect one another's space and understand the requirements of our respective professions.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

Winning Shreshtha Kala Saadhak Award' by Gujarat Rajya Sangeet Natak Academy in the year 2009, winning Pt. Omkarnath Thakur classical music competition in both junior and senior categories, 'Sangeet Ratna' award by the Government of Gujarat in the year 2010, receiving the 'Best Singer of Gujarat' award by Gujarati Sugam Sangeet foundation in the year 2006, receiving the 'Daughter of Gujarat' sanman by Gujarat Chamber of Commerce in the year 2014, receiving Kavi Shree Ravji Patel 'Yuva Pratibha' award for the year 2015 at Samanvaya - Kaavya Sangeet Samaaroh by H. H. Shri Morari Bapu and receiving Best Playback Singer of the Year Award for the year 2018 by The Gujarat State Film Awards for her film Mission Mummy are the achievements that I am most proud of. Also, singing the American and Indian national anthems on the soil of America together is the achievement I am proud of. I am also proud to have performed for certain NGOs, orphanages and social service groups to bring awareness in the society through music.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

I try to find solace and peace in music and in spending time or sharing my days with my family when things are not going smoothly. For instance, during pandemic, I focused on planning my upcoming projects, learning new genres of music and gathering content, worked on my health and spent time with my family.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Undeniable passion for work, consistency, focus and commitment to my profession are some of the main principles I follow to achieve my goals.



IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

- I would implement equal pay for men and women in all professions.
- I would demolish terrorism from the world.
- I would work to spread awareness among youth to stay away from substance abuse.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Find out what you are good at, find out the purpose of your life. Dream big and work hard to achieve your goals.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

I am ecstatic to be a part of the biggest tree plantation drive in India. I firmly believe that by planting more trees, we are working in the betterment of our present and we are also creating a golden future for the upcoming generations. It is one of the most pioneering steps to solve some of the dangerous environmental issues like global warming, water shortage, climate changes and saving the endangered species.



DR. SANDHYA ADVANI

FOUNDER AND PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT
POSH SYSTEMS.COM

POSH Consultant and Trainer

Invited as a Speaker on multiple forums to speak on prevention of sexual harassment of women – Laja.org, Ansh Foundation, Women Millionaire Summit 2020

Invited as a Speaker in the International Conference – Rochester Reinvent 2020 Conference on Cyber security for Women

Invited by various forums like Rotary, Lions Club to speak on Business in the times of #MeToo

Invited by Action Aid to train girls from the slums on sexual harassment in colleges, at the workplace and on social media

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Sandhya has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

I had a medical and a law background. My marital family had a travel business. I started helping in it and built it up. In 1998, I separated out from my husband started on my own travel agency. Around 2002, airlines reduced discounts. The writing on the wall was clear. Evolve or be wiped out. I took up a corporate job handling Administration. I learnt from scratch. I had no choice but to pick up the skills as quickly as I could. It was a question of survival- survival of my children and me. As time passed, I grew professionally. In Feb 2019, after my retirement as Director Administration, I set up my own firm POSH Systems.com. I wanted to make a difference in women's lives with my training in prevention of sexual harassment of women at the workplace. Life had come a full circle. I came back to law.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I saw a security guard losing his job due to ignorance of the POSH law. I volunteered to conduct trainings in Hindi. This experience gave me immense satisfaction and I decided to take this up as a second career post my retirement.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

It's a great feeling being recognised. I hope my story will inspire other women to achieve their dreams. My message to others is that -you are only limited by your own thoughts. Break free. The sky is the limit. Keep evolving, learning. Let nothing stop you.



**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

The key is delegation. You have to accept that you have limited time and energy. I work from 9.30am till 6 pm. I read a lot, create new modules and devote time to learn new things. After that I spend time with my family, friends, enjoy movies, travel etc.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

On a personal level- ensuring that my children got very well educated with the right values. We survived all kinds of circumstances and emerged stronger.

On a professional level starting off my second career by setting up my own firm POSH Systems.com and making a difference to the lives of men and women with the knowledge I impart.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

I treat it as a temporary phase and keep going. I use my time to improve my product offerings, innovate, build up my skills - sharpen the saw so to speak.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Anticipate your customer's requirements. Focus on quality, excellence, innovation and success will follow you.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

1. Provide compulsory education and vocational skills
2. Take steps to eradicate poverty
3. Better environmental management

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Follow your passion but make sure it is a marketable and revenue generating passion. Weigh all odds and go for it.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

We have only the earth to live on. We owe it to our children to leave the world a better place. We need to stop plundering the earth and work towards protecting the earth and the environment.



DR. SHAULI MUKHERJEE

DIRECTOR
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & DEAN - STUDENTS' AFFAIRS
ADAMAS UNIVERSITY

Passionate Academician, Global thought leader and Inspirational Speaker



Successfully set up and led the first STEM School in West Bengal

Awarded for being among INDIA'S TOP 50 WOMEN LEADERS IN THE EDUCATION INDUSTRY

Recipient of GEM OF INDIA AWARD in 2017

Recipient of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Award in 2020 for contribution towards nation building

Recipient of World Peace Award in 2021

 @dr.shaulimukherjee  9830527098



Shauli has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

With a purposeful career in the education space spanning over more than 20 years, I have dedicated my life towards promotion of child-centric and activity-oriented education. A passionate educationist and a thought leader with a background of setting up and leading new age K-12 schools, I had been the Founder Principal of Adamas World School and STEM World School, the first STEM school in West Bengal. Under my leadership, STEM World School had been ranked and awarded as the 2nd best International Day School in West Bengal by Education World. All through my career in education, I have actively contributed to and spearheaded the process of creating a personalized, engaging and stress-free curriculum for children of all age groups. I have been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including NATIONAL QUALITY EXCELLENCE AWARD, GEM OF INDIA AWARD, PEERLESS ABP PRATIBHA SWIKRITI AWARD, SARVEPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN AWARD, GURUPNISHAD SAMMAN, GURUVARYA SAMMAN, NATIONAL EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AWARD in the category of commitment to excellence in education, (to name a few), and WORLD PEACE AWARD. I have also been awarded for being among INDIA'S TOP 50 WOMEN LEADERS IN THE EDUCATION INDUSTRY. I have also been awarded as one of the TOP 20 REVOLUTIONARY EDUCATION LEADERS. I am associated with premiere educational organizations across India as well as globally in senior advisory capacity. As a motivational speaker, I am regularly invited in numerous national and international conferences, summits, conclaves and events to share my insights on the futuristic and transformative role of education. I am currently working as the Director of School of Education and Dean of Students' Affairs at Adamas University, Kolkata.



HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I have always wanted to work in the education sector to bring about visible and tangible differences in the lives of the people around me through the transformative power of education. I am a person who had turned her passion into her profession. In my present capacity as the Director of School of Education at one of the premiere Universities of eastern India, I have a wonderful opportunity to nurture and shape the young minds: the would- be 21st century educators and research scholars in the field of education in quite a significant way because they are the actual enablers and influencers who would continue to be the torchbearers of a progressive and innovative educational ecosystem in the days to come. I am committed towards passionately contributing wholeheartedly to the furtherance of the noble cause of education in creating meaningful impact in the lives of many.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

It is a very special feeling when your hard work gets appreciated and recognized. It surely gives an additional boost to continue your work with utmost vigour, zeal and passion.

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

Being a spiritually grounded person, I start as well as end my day with meditation and prayers. I am basically a workaholic person who works for around 15 hours in a day, that too quite happily, passionately and brimming with energy and positivity.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

Felicitated for outstanding doctoral thesis in English Literature by the Ex-Governor of West Bengal, Mr. MK Narayanan, Recipient of EduExcellence Certification of Professional Achievement in Education in 2015. Under my stable leadership as the Founder Principal, STEM World School, Kolkata has been ranked and awarded as the 2nd Best International Day School in West Bengal by Education World India School Ranking 2016 among many others.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

I am a person who thrives on intrinsic motivation to touch, impact, inspire and create visible and tangible difference in the people's lives through the transformative and ennobling power of education. When you are inherently driven by a greater purpose, you do not need any extrinsic stimulus to keep yourself motivated.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Sheer hard work, determination, perseverance coupled with a passion and purpose driven initiative and above all an unflinching faith in the Almighty are the source and reason for whatever I have achieved so far.



IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

I would drive the compelling and much needed shift from a one-size-fits-all education system based on the industrial factory model of productivity to a more creative, innovative, personalized and organic structure of education. I would transform the world into a peaceful and happy place again where everyone need not strive, rather continue to thrive and above all a world where every human being would evolve into the best, the highest and truest version of themselves.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

We are the most wonderful and marvellous creations of the Almighty: purpose - driven spiritual beings having a human experience. The very fact that we still continue to exist on this planet is in itself a testimony to the fact that WE DO MATTER. Try to create a greater purpose for all that you do and stand for. Your purpose will eventually act as a strong magnet to pull people towards your vision.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

We have already caused irreparable damage to our planet and the dire consequences of the same are already blatantly visible to us in the form of Global Warming and Climate Change. Planting trees would surely save millions of lives on earth with sustainable positive changes in our ecological system. I would strongly urge each one of you to be an integral part of the Biggest Tree Plantation Drive in India. It's worthwhile to remember that people who will not sustain trees will soon live in a world that will not sustain people.



MALLIKA SEN

FINANACIAL CONSULTANT

MAX LIFE INSURANCE

She helped set-up a new start-up 70 MM Travels Pvt Ltd. in leading their sales & marketing effort

At 70 MM, she explored and established new markets in Bangladesh, Srilanka and Myanmar

Also set-up the Kolkata office for Akhbar Travels and established their footprint in the Eastern market including Orissa and Assam

At Vemsimal Travels, she handled key and major accounts of the Chief Minister, Cabinet Minister and Government Secretaries

In 2010, was appointed CEO of Gainwell Leisure & Travels and helped them establish their entire corporate portfolio



Mallika has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

In simple words, my professional journey has been one roller-coaster ride full of learnings, hope and inspiration. Through my entire career, my go-getter attitude coupled with my passion for travel has been my mantra for success.

Way back in 1981, choosing to pursue post graduate diploma in travel agency management against the wishes of my parents was the first path-breaking step I had taken in my life. What followed was an eventful career with well-known travel companies like Vemsimal, Akbar Travels, and Gainwell across various locations in India. Reflecting back, few of the top learnings that I cherish till date is to be able to develop and nurture long-lasting relations with clients, honed my PR skills over the years and most importantly how different cultures and world-wide travel can power inter-personal relations.

My sheer passion for exploring new things made me take the biggest leap of faith in my career. After being associated with the travel & tourism industry for 38 years, the pandemic made me navigate into the new avenue of Insurance. In 2021, I decided to re-start my career with Max Life Insurance as a Financial Consultant and take my learnings of over 30 years to re-build myself from scratch.



HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

At a mere age of 13, I discovered my love for travel when my father would return from his overseas travel narrated his various adventures and experiences. With each of his travel story, it took me into a journey of my own that further catapulted me to believe that I can explore any place on this planet in no time. During my schooling years, there was no doubt that I always aced Geography as a subject meanwhile everyone was chasing engineering or medical as a field. As soon as the right opportunity struck me, I jumped into working with my first travel agency, Holiday Nepal. Now, my love for exploration has got me got me associated with Max Life.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

There is only one word for it - Gratitude! I am grateful to both my parents and an exceptional mention to my in-laws who without much realization helped me steer into an unknown path that only became the love of my life in future. I also extend my gratitude to my colleagues and clients who over the year have helped me overcome challenges, and have contributed immensely to my entire journey and now this award.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY? HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?

My typical day is a fine balance between my work, family responsibilities, and my own health & wellness. Typically my day starts at sharp 5 am with yoga, followed by a thirty minutes' walk and a series of gratitude that I send out to the universe. Then I usually head into the kitchen to cook up some Bengali meals which is my stress-buster for the day.

Finally my work-day starts from 9:00 am which then ends around 9:00 pm with binge-watching my favourite tele-series or movies.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

In both my professional and personal journey, I have been faced with numerous challenges that has only made me stronger, fearless and even more passionate to make the most of my life. When my daughter passed away due to an unfortunate accident in the year 2002, it was an unimaginable setback that I had to face. My greatest achievement is that irrespective of the trauma, I continued to pursue my dreams and ambition in the tourism industry which has been a tribute to my beloved daughter.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

The last two years has been like no other. Few of the things that has helped me keep sane during this difficult time is the joy I feel listening to spiritual things and my mantra is to surround myself with positive people and things in life. This simple philosophy always helps me stay motivated even in the times when things are not as smooth as I would like it to be.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Integrity, Passion, Dedication and Discipline are the key principles for success according to me. I have based my entire journey on these principles that have always helped me succeed in all spheres of my life.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

Starvation, pollution and drive Covid-19 out of our lives.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Only one thing, never give up and have complete faith in oneself, no matter how tough it gets.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

It truly is a great initiative towards nature and to address global warming. I think if each one of us take these small steps we can protect our Earth and our future generations. My only message is let's do our bit in any small way to contribute to such an inspirational cause.



DR. SARIKA KULKARNI

THOUGHT LEADER, CHANGE MAKER, INFLUENCER
RAAH FOUNDATION

Started career as a professor in leading Mumbai business schools after a PhD in Management - won the prestigious UGC fellowship and also the prestigious Best Teacher Award.

Had an innate desire to become an entrepreneur and got an opportunity to start an ITES business when my second child was born. Took the chance and became a full time entrepreneur quitting my cushioned job. Enjoyed becoming a job creator and providing opportunities to hundreds of youths. Humbling experiences further strengthened my resolve to continue on this path.

Successfully exited to become a social entrepreneur and start Raah Foundation - a for purpose organisation that takes an integrated approach to tribal development. One of the fastest growing organisation, Raah in a short span of 7 years has already impacted over 30,000 people directly and many others indirectly. Also runs a social business Raah Creations that provides market linkages to the tribal art handicraft and handmade products.

Serves on several boards and think tanks as an advisor and mentor.

📷 @sarika_kul

☎ 9869440237



Sarika has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

After a PhD in management I started my career as a professor. Always interested in entrepreneurship, I got a chance in 2001 while on my maternity leave. I spent the next 10 years growing my business and enjoyed every minute of becoming a job creator. I also had a tremendous desire to become a change maker and in 2010 I sold my business and co-founded Raah Foundation.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

Raah Foundation is the culmination of my passion and desire to contribute sustainably to nation building.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

Excited, good yet immensely responsible.



**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

Reading is a big part of my day & I begin and end my day with books. Exercise, meditation cooking which I find therapeutic, playing with my dog, work, speaking and writing assignments, and conversations over music with my family sums up my day.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

The biggest achievement has been able to do what I have wanted to do at different points of time in my life and becoming successful at that. I've have received many awards and also serve on important think tanks.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

Spirituality helps me in such situations. I believe that everything happens for a reason. I move away from the problem, do what makes me happy and get back with renewed energy.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Keep the big picture in mind and divide it into small achievable goals. Take a deep dive & make informed choices. Stay there without getting perturbed by failures.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

Barren lands into forests, Better treatment of animals and Clean up rivers, ban plastics.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Never doubt your own ability. You have unlimited power and capacity to achieve a lot of things so never doubt that.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

Tree plantation is one of the best ways of restoring our earth. I feel happy to be part of the biggest tree Plantation Drive in India. Raah Foundation also undertakes large-scale re-wilding projects. Needless to say more trees we plant and care for – faster we can address global warming mitigate climate change.



AARATI SAVUR

CEO
PARISAR ASHA , CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL
RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Educationist, Artist, Life Coach

Successfully launched Eco-Tech World school program for underprivileged schools which benefits almost 50,000 students every year

Introduced much needed positive parenting and child helpline- free mental health helpline, an absolute free imitative benefits lakhs of families every year

Walk away from addiction : started this drive in underprivileged schools to sensitize children regarding substance and screen abuse

Free Parenting sessions : it's very important to educate parents on the right way of upbringing of children, especially in underprivileged schools . We conduct every year more than 200 workshops in the lower income group schools benefitting more than 50,000 parents

📷 @aaratisavur

☎ 9819816206



*Aarati has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

I have travelled a long way from a fresher to being a being part of prestigious Indian Achievers club. After completing my post-graduation my professional career started with my first innings with Parisar Asha. I was a teachers' trainer for almost 10 years. Then I moved to Indore after my marriage and got an opportunity to work with MP's first IB school. Then I shifted to Mumbai and the career trajectory routed to the corporate world. Then there was never looking back. I reached new heights.

After many years, once again the founder director of Parisar Asha who was terminally ill called me to pass the baton of the organisation. I agreed to give up the corporate world and join the social sector to fulfil her dreams of providing holistic education to underprivileged. It's been 8 years now as the CEO Parisar Asha and we have since then grown with leaps and bounds.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

It was by chance. Immediately after my post-graduation in Botany, I joined Parisar Asha thinking that the organisation worked for the conservation the environment. I later realised that the organisation works around a unique educational model encompassing natural, social, spiritual, emotional, home and work environment!



HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

It's a surreal feeling. I grateful to the Almighty that I have been the chosen out of the millions for a cause and I also feel highly responsible as I have to live up to the expectations of the universe to continue the good work for the society.

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

With this new normal due to the Covid19 outbreak, I am working from home so there's no work and personal life demarcation. Day starts and ends with never ending phone calls and marathon meetings. However, I still make time for my walks, meditation and also spend time with my daughter.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

We are one of the pioneers to introduce a toll-free Positive Parenting and Child Helpline (18005322244/9594466461). This helpline provides mental health support to parents, youths and students on myriad mental health issues. This helpline is handled by our team of psychologist and psychiatrist.

We also conduct free parenting sessions for underprivileged schools. We take great pride in providing these services absolutely free with the help of our CSR partners.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

When you stop expecting too much from life and accept things you win half of your battle. You don't get disappointed easily. I always reflect at the brighter side of my life and there's always so much to be grateful for. That keeps me going.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

- Strong values and work ethics
- Team work
- Never give up attitude
- Continues innovation



IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

That would be the 3 P's:

Population

Politics

Poverty

If these 3 things are taken care of world will be a much better place to live !

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

My success mantra for the 21st century is about 5Cs.
They are creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, communication and compassion.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

Being a leader of an NGO and being driven by the mission to provide education by tying the different forms of environment, I feel privileged for being a part of this colossal drive. We also conduct various drives on environmental sensitisation. I would like to tell the readers that you might leave behind all your assets, property for your children but what kind of environment are you going to leave for them is worth thinking.



HETAL DOSHI

FOOD BLOGGER, FOUNDER, BAKER
& HEAD GOURMET CHEF AT PEACHH AND PAPRIKA

*Branding & Design Consultant, Writer, Photographer,
Certified Reiki Master*

Launched her Bakery and Patisserie @ Peachh and Paprika last year and have been successfully running the same since a year

Wrote 21 short stories and thereafter 17 poetries under her registered E-Book 'SOULMUSINGS' (Facebook Page - @mysoulmusings) during the last lockdown which engaged many readers and was liked across diverse audiences

Opened Travel Blog on Instagram @thegypsytrotter

Edited and designed a Coffee Table Book on the life and times of artist M F Husain basis a docu-feature produced by Barkha Roy and directed by Bhavana Sresth

Conceptualized, Designed and Art-Directed production of very many new as well as revamped Packaging and Retail merchandise of FMCG Products - Parle Monaco, Melody, Parle G, Frooti, Njoi, Fairever, Tata Tea Gold... to name a few (www.behance.net/hetaldoshi)



*Hetal has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

📷 @peachhandpaprika 📞 9820902718

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

Having completed Applied Arts through Sophia Polytechnic in 1999 with specialization in Photography, I worked with a couple of Design agencies as a Designer, Art Director and a Creative Head till 2005. Then I had my baby & took a sabbatical from full time work. As an Independent Consultant, I collaborated with interesting clients & worked upon many creative branding projects. Was also appointed as a lead 'Home-Stylist' by an E-Lifestyle store. In free time I engaged in writing stories & poetries, painting & dancing. Being an avid traveller, I put my camera to use by capturing a lot of photo stories from across the world. Started my Travel Blog on Instagram, registered and started my collective articles, stories and poetries called 'SOULMUSINGS' on FB. And eventually during the last lock down I explored my Chef-skills by baking & cooking a number of global cuisines, desserts, breads, cakes, cheesecakes & much more. Friends & family consistently encouraged me to take a first step towards my future dream of opening a Café & I launched my Food Blog, Bakery & Patisserie - Peachh and Paprika in July 2020. Got it registered under FSSAI and since then, there has been no looking back.



HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

Being a Designer & Photographer was what I pursued through my studies & profession. Being a Chef & Writer is purely through my passion and wanting to make a difference.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

Certainly a top of the world feeling & an assurance that years of passion & perseverance eventually pays off.

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

Not being a morning person, mornings are usually unplanned. If I get up early, it's walk time and if not, it's 'some more sleep time'. Usually the day begins with making breakfast for my son. Then it's either completing food orders or design projects. In my free time I either get on the dance floor, write or paint. Chatting with my son, mom & friends, doing my prayers & evening walks shape my evenings apart from cooking. Thanks to the domestic support, I can do much more through my day.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

Launch of Peachh and Paprika & some of my impressive design projects.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

Faith in God, Ignorance towards the undesired, Focus on the goal, Being grounded, Having compassion & a free-spirit helps me to keep walking no matter what.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Honesty, Hard-work, Compassion, Humility, Gratitude & Grace.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

1) Eradicate hunger & child abuse 2) Create a world of equality in true sense 3) Make education free for every child on earth

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"If anyone ever tells you that you are incapable of doing something, zip your mouth & put double the energy in doing exactly what you want to do".



HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

I feel privileged to be the chosen one. It is indeed one amongst the many solutions. Planting trees is the need of the hour. Time is running out & we cannot waste any more of it. Each one needs to do their bit to paint their shade of green on Mother Earth.



DEEPA MAHESH

LIFE & LEADERSHIP COACH
POORNA WELLBEING

*Life & Leadership Coaching, Wellbeing
Interventionist and Speaking engagements*

*Founded Poorna Wellbeing, an institution that promotes
holistic wellbeing for individuals and groups*

*She has been a volunteer her entire life since she was 18 years
old - a volunteer in Chinmaya mission, then in a school
teaching kids dance and theatre, working with senior citizens
during the pandemic times, and now a volunteer office bearer
with WICCI*

*Has always been a mental health advocate and now
appointed as the State President of WICCI - Karnataka Mental
Health Council*



*In her last Corporate OD Head role, she successfully enhanced
the employee engagement in Madura Fashion & Lifestyle*

*Mentored hundreds of Young Talent Management Trainee's in
her HR career with empathy and care*



*Deepa has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

 poornawellbeing  9686051005

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

The Headline of my journey can be "Transformation from Self-fragmentation to self-integration to Wellbeing".

I realized my seeking was always balance & wellbeing which led me to quit my 15 + years career in HR. In pursuit of my vision to initiate a Movement of Holistic Wellbeing, I founded Poorna Wellbeing in July 2019.

The journey has not been easy. I have had many days which made me wonder of my existence. The pain to break existing unresourceful beliefs and embrace my inner true self has been immense and has led me to engage deeply in therapy, arts, life coaching, various courses, mentors, certifications, and LIFE EXPERIENCE. It all is WORTH IT.

Now I give to others what I received in the last decade.



HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I started my career in Human Resources and the most exciting part of the role was interacting and listening to the employees and seeing them joyous and engaged.

In search of my life's purpose, I shifted full time into the field of Mental Health as an Expressive Arts Therapist.

As a natural progression, I founded Poorna Wellbeing, standing for the cause of igniting holistic wellbeing consciousness in humanity, especially in Leaders, through my Coaching practice, Wellbeing Interventions for corporates and other communities and voluntary positions.

Each innings in my career have led me to meaningful contributions in my Life's purpose today (its more than career to me) and each life circumstance has honed my skills to deliver the best to my stakeholders.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

I feel recognised. I feel it is a great honour to be selected. I also feel it is a responsibility to share my mission with the world and take my mission forward. It's an opportunity to join hands with collaborators who feel inspired by my cause.

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

My morning starts with "Me time". Almost 2.5 hours of Meeting myself and nature intimately before I meet the world outside (including my family). Sustaining this rhythm, gives me enough energy to feel grounded, in fact it acts as a shock absorber.

I have a set time for each task when I am working! That's focus time.

Evenings I take out time to sky gaze and/or observe nature mindfully.

Late evening - spending time with family, watching a net series with my partner

My night practice is journaling (every single day), moon watching and a short surrender practice. This helps me empty my bucket and ready to retire for the day.

The day starts and ends with gratefulness.

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

My biggest achievement is I took charge of my inner fragmentation, embarked a conscious Self-healing journey, reached my current stage of Self Integration and now spreading further the Wellbeing movement to Humanity at large. I envision a world full of Wellbeing!

As an erstwhile therapist, psychologist or now as a Life & Leadership Coach, my dedication to the client's needs and the testimony of the transformation made by them is something I am proud of. They learn to take charge of their life!

Just Me being Me is a matter of pride! I love myself.

These are just a few to mention!



HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

1. Pause and reflect from a learning mindset – asking the question “What’s the learning from this difficult situation?”
2. I like going back to basics – asking myself “What is my purpose? And also Reconnecting with my best buddies who help me ground when I am lost.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

1. Visioning and setting my Intention
2. Grounding using activities that anchor me to my intentions
3. Empathy – Warmth and human relationships
4. Resilience– I persist, come what may!
5. Learning – Everything and everyone around me teaches me something.
6. Authenticity– I own up and take responsibility for success and mistakes.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

1. Curating Bespoke Wellbeing – I would create a wellbeing movement by making every corporate employee have access to wellbeing in their own way.
2. Safe listening space – No person to go away without an empathetic listening space. It’s our birth right to be listened to, which many seldom get access to.
3. Creating a “You are radiant movement” – Its ok to be who you are and show up like that and in essence you are beautiful and radiant!

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Start out your life with discipline – in your body, work, family and more. Then know your purpose, connect deeply with your Core Values, Act based on your best talents, Be authentic to yourself and always stay anchored in Self.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

I have a very special relationship with Trees. When I was emotionally imbalanced, I used to engage in plant observation and they taught me how to live rhythmic. Tree is the logo of my company because they taught me to Root and then Shoot.

I love trees and they are my best friends. In fact, they are our best friends. So be it for us individually and/or as a globe collectively, we need our best friends to be with us.

So, I am thrilled to be a part of the tree plantation drive. Kudos to this initiative.



KAREN TERRY RAZA

ENTREPRENEUR, SOCIAL ACTIVIST, FASHION
MODEL, SOCIAL INFLUENCER

Fashion and Charity

Doctorate(Social work & Humanitarian)

*The Diplomatic Mission Global Peace Certificate of
Excellency (Social Work & Humanitarian)*


*The COUNSULATE General of The Islamic Republic of
Afghanistan in Mumbai Conferred me The Title of
"AMBASSADOR OF PEACE"*

*Recieved the World Book record Certificate of
Commitment for pledging to serve society during
Pandemic*

Women Empowerment Award 2021

*Kotak Life Community contribution and business
Ambassador award 2021 and many more..*

 @karenterry.raza

 9987091006



*Karen has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

A Woman with a Wise Mind, Kind Heart, Brave Spirit and Bold Faith who never gives up .Although I being a Managing Director of a Company owned by me and my husband my passion for Creativity & Fashion has drawn me to start my Event planning company.

My passion for Fashion and doing charity work has given me a lot of recognition and rewards.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

One of the greatest reward is being selected amongst millions to the top 99 Achievers .It feels so great to be selected and a great feeling of happiness to share my journey and achievements and set an example to many who will read this and be encouraged to live their dreams and achieve their goals especially women who need that upliftment at times.



HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

I would never say the journey will be a cakewalk but it's also not quantum physics. In fact, the difference between getting what you want and falling short is separated by a small gap: Your mindset. But most important is First take good care of yourself..love yourself and be strong enough so you can be the strength to many...

And will be able to face all the challenges that come your way.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY? HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?

Success is something that we all want to attain. It's a station of life that we dream about. Never put things off until tomorrow. Start today by setting an easy, attainable routine. Dream and think big, but have a healthy dose of reality to counterbalance that. Things don't always go as expected, but you learn and grow along the way.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

1) HAVE A CLEAR VISION IN MIND

Your vision should be the blueprint for what you are going to actually do to achieve success

2) USE AFFIRMATIONS TO KEEP YOURSELF MOTIVATED.

Affirmations are what will motivate you along your journey. With affirmations, you will define your own reality.

3) BE COMMITTED AND DETERMINED

Even the most prepared for journey can have unexpected twists and turns. Being totally committed is a key ingredient to reaching your final destination.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I believe that nothing can stop you from achieving your dreams, no age too can ever stop you to be successful believe in yourself trust in everything that you do because there is "NO OTHER CREATION OF GOD WHO IS STRONGER THAN A WOMAN .& BIG JOURNEYS BEGIN WITH SMALL STEPS "So GROW WITH THE FLOW And Create a LIFE that feels good on the INSIDE, not one that just looks good on the OUTSIDE.



HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

The power and encouragement that strengthened me more was after i associated myself with many women organizations and woman empowerment platforms.

And from there on I've been a part of many good causes like Tree plantations , donating food in the slum areas during the lockdown donating groceries for the home for the aged ,Vaccination drive for the elders of Home for the Aged.

I feel a great sense of happiness to be doing the good I can for the ones in Need

And not forgetting Mother Earth i would give one great piece of advice regarding Tree Plantations

"Mother Earth is our home and we must make it a healthier and happier place for our coming generations...

Don't forget that we have inherited this Earth from our ancestors to pass it on to our children. So taking good care of it lies on our shoulders."I Feel Proud and Happy to be a part of The biggest Tree Plantation because its My turn to give back to mother Earth , and we cannot forget that "Trees exhale for us so that we can inhale them to stay alive. "SO PLANT A TREE AND GET OXYGEN FOR FOR FREE"



YOGINI KUNAL SHARMA

SPIRITUAL AND ALCHEMICAL PAINTER

AUMYOGINI, DIVYA AAKRUTI

*Spiritual Artist, Corporate workshop conductor,
Alternate therapy practitioner*

*Represented India in an International Spiritual and wellness
Art show in Paris*

*Awarded the Parijaat award by Orissa govt in collaboration
with Indian Petroleum for contribution to the field of Indian
Art and culture*

*Successfully conducted art expression workshops for stroke
patients at Reliance hospital*

*Successfully conducted ongoing art therapy workshops for
patients and doctors at Reliance hospital*

*Art workshops for expression of trauma for Asha sadan
inmates*

*Motivational sessions for Kotak run endeavor for skill building
among low income youth*

@yoginiksharma 9820605042



*Yogini has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR WITH OUR READERS?

I am a self taught artist and quit my high paying job at HSBC to pursue Art which at that time I didn't know was my soul's calling. When one follows one's destiny then obviously the journey is so rich with soul enlightening experiences. The process of painting is my hotline to the Divine.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I used to copy the images of deities from calendar prints on my notebook as a child during school vacations. Painting was a natural but I came from a generation where an "artist" was not a sought-after profession. I followed the herd, landed up in banking but had the sense and the courage to listen to the tiny but persistent voice of my soul to paint.

HAVING GOT SELECTED AMONGST MILLIONS TO THE TOP 99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

Feels amazing but also am humbled and grateful for the blessings of the Divine which has made this happen. How else does one explain that out of so many people, you guys noticed my work.



**CAN YOU DESCRIBE/OUTLINE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?
HOW DO YOU BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY LIFE?**

My day usually begins at 3:30am, starts with Naam smaran {meditation} after which I cook, workout. I start painting by 11am. Since my art studio is in the next room its easy to balance work and family. I wind up my day by 6pm with an early dinner and in bed by latest 9pm

IN RETROSPECT, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO BE PROUD OF?

I think my greatest achievement has been having the courage to give up my job in spite of immense family and peer pressures to pursue a profession for which I had the passion but lacked the technical know-how.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED?

I follow a path of Faith and Surrender and try to put that into daily practice. I meditate a lot. And at a deep level I know that He has my back and I am taken care of. When we flow smoothly , we allow the universe to perform miracles in our lives.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Discipline, Persistence, Constantly improving my work, I also workout to avoid stress and take out time to relax and allow the mind to refresh.

IF YOU HAD A MAGIC STICK, WHICH ARE THE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

Nothing. When you surrender there is nothing to change. Everything is a play of karma and happens as per His will.

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

If you don't believe in yourself, no one else will. And once you do, God stands by you. Have faith, patience and never never never give up on yourself.

HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING PART OF THE BIGGEST TREE PLANTATION DRIVE IN INDIA?

You think Planting of trees is a solution to the Global Warming and Climate change? Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the footsteps of an Achiever like you?

I am extremely excited to be a part of this initiative. I do know that having more green around us will do all of us a world of good, make us more calmer as a race and appreciate the wonders of this magnificent planet. Let us not wait for a Super hero to save our planet. Let us each be one. Even if we each plant one tree, we will make India beautiful and green again.