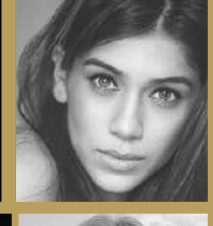
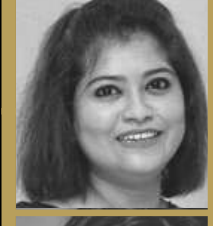
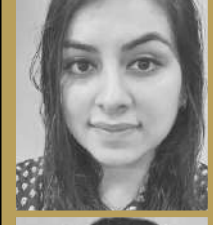



THE INDIAN ACHIEVER'S CLUB

99

ACHIEVERS OF INDIA

2020 EDITION II





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.



99 ACHIEVERS OF INDIA

2020 EDITION II

WINNERS 2020

THE INDIAN ACHIEVER'S CLUB



NISHANT DESHMUKH
FOUNDER
& MANAGING DIRECTOR
SUGEE GROUP



URVI A. PIRAMAL
CHAIRPERSON
ASHOK PIRAMAL
GROUP



**ARINDAM DEY
SARKAR**
DGM - WOODLANDS
MULTISPECIALITY
HOSPITAL, KOLKATA



NAMRATA PUROHIT
FOUNDER
THE PILATES STUDIO,
THE EARTH CIRCLE



SHALU NIJHAWAN
HEAD OF
OPERATIONS
SHARAN



KAMIYA JANI
CHIEF TRAVELLING
OFFICER/EDITOR-IN-
CHIEF CURLYTALES



JAMNADAS MAJETHIA
CHAIRMAN,
MANAGING DIRECTOR
HATS OFF PRODUCTIONS LTD



**MUNIRA S
POONAWALLA**
CABIN CREW



PIYA MARKER
SPECIAL EDUCATOR
THE ADITYA BIRLA
INTEGRATED SCHOOL



**AKTA SEHGAL
MALHOTRA**
FINANCIAL MENTOR
& SOCIAL ACTIVIST



PRIYANKA GAKHAR
STUDENT, ATHLETE,
DHOLI, MODEL
CANBERRA DHOLIS



ALYONA KAPOOR
FOOD ENTREPRENEUR
KHANA KHAZANA,
FOODFOOD, SK
RESTAURANTS



HAMSA IYER
SUSTAINABILITY
EXPERT
ECO PRODUCTS INDIA



HEETA PARIKH
FOUNDER - CEO
SILVER SPUN BRAND
SOLUTIONS



AMBREENA J. KHAN
WRITER, MENTAL
HEALTH ADVOCATE,
CONTENT CREATOR



TEJASWINI DIVYA NAIK
AUTHOR,
FILM-MAKER,
ACTIVIST



DIMPS SANGHANI
BUSINESS ENTREPRENEUR
TIARA ORGANIC HAIR &
BEAUTY SALON, LONDON



MANALLII AJMERA
HEAD -
CORPORATE
COMMUNICATION
INDIAFIRST LIFE



MEGHA BAJAJ
ACTOR, MODEL,
DIGITAL CONTENT
CREATOR



SHUBHANGI S MITRA
LAWYER,
PHILANTHROPIST,
BUSINESSWOMAN



**DR. SWATI VISHAL
JAJODIA**
CEO
SWATI SPENTOSE PVT LTD



DISHA SINGH
FOUNDER & CEO
ZOUK



KAVITA IYER
BUSINESS & LIFE COACH
- AHAANA SOLUTIONS &
MY LOGISTICS GURUKUL



ROSHANI SHEHNAZZ
SPIRITUAL
SOUL-DOCTOR
WHOLEISTIC WELLBEING



GAYATRI PANDEY
CO-FOUNDER
REYOD



BENAIFER JIMMY MIRZA
LIFESTYLE WRITER,
CONTENT DEVELOPER
& VOICE ARTISTE



NEETI SAVLA NANDU
WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT
COACH, EMPOWER YOU



PRERNA WAHI
WRITER, AUTHOR,
BLOGGER & INFLUENCER
WWW.PRERNAWAHI.COM



ARCHANA VADNERKAR
MODEL, ACTOR,
TAROT
& ASTROLOGY
ENTHUSIAST



EKTA PUNJABI
EDUCATIONIST
PODAR
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL (IB& CIE)



KOMAL PARAKH
ENTREPRENEUR
UPCYCLE CORPS



GARIMA BANKA
EVENT PLANNER
SAGAKOLKATA



ANUSREEA PAUL
INFLUENCER, IT
PROFESSIONAL, VLOGGER
THE BONG TRIPPERS



NISHANT DESHMUKH

FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR
SUGEE GROUP

As the promoter of Sugee Group, Mr. Deshmukh's vision and rich network across multiple segments of the society, business sectors, and regulatory authorities make him the true driving force of the organization. As an alumnus of the prestigious Harvard Business School, his go-getter attitude coupled with a calm & controlled approach to face challenges makes him adept at sensing relevant opportunities early on and converting them into innovative lucrative business propositions. His in-depth knowledge and vast experience in various facets of the construction business have enabled Sugee Group to grow exponentially in a very short span of time.



*Nishant 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 taken a lot of hard work and persistence to take my company to where it is today. My journey has been like a rollercoaster ride but I believe that god has been graceful on me and has guided me to the right path.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I come from an IT background. I had started my own IT company right after I completed my studies. Unfortunately, things did not work out as planned in that domain. My father has always been my guiding force, and he was already a part of the real estate industry so I took inspiration from him and decided to pursue real estate as a career. Though I initiated with limited knowledge about the real estate industry, due to a robust support system and values of my father, I have formed a strong footing in the real estate sector today.

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

I am incredibly grateful for this recognition and honored to be amongst the top 99 achievers of India, who have made significant enhancements in the development of our country. It is a great feeling when you know that all your hard work is positively impacting a community and making a difference. This acknowledgement is a great encouragement for me and motivates me to keep driving innovation and change in everything I do.



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

It is crucial to balance work and personal life. I have been blessed with a great family and friends. After a hectic day of work, sometimes I like to spend time with my friends in the evening. It helps me restore my strength that I might have consumed in the hectic daily life.

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

One of the most significant achievements that has been the highlight of my life happened in 2015 when I was awarded the 'Udyog Ratna Puraskar 2015' from the World Marathi Chamber of Commerce and Industry by our honorable former Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis. Every time I think of it, it motivates me to do better each day.

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

No two days are the same, and each day presents itself with new opportunities and challenges. During rough days, I believe that the best solution is to be calm.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

For me, the three pillars of success are commitment, ownership, and accountability. First, one has to be committed to what they do and give their entire focus to achieve their goals. Second, ownership is to take charge of whatever you do, and lastly, accountability is to be responsible for all your actions.

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

The world does not work on magic sticks; it works on sheer hard work. But if you ask me here, three things that I would want to change in the world will be as below:

1. Coming together and living in a community as a whole to help each individual grow and progress
2. Striving for faster and path-breaking innovation in a world that helps to accentuate the skillsets for everyone and elevates each individual in their respective capacity
3. A roof over every single person in the world

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

You will be hurdled with various impediments on your way, but it's up to you to sail through or give up. You will have to keep innovating and upgrading yourself throughout the years, and if you do, it will all be worth the struggle in the long run.



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 is definitely a first step in this direction. The beauty of nature that we enjoy and the fresh air we breathe shows us the importance of trees. For centuries we have relied on trees for our basic necessities, and yet they are not treated properly. However, there has been a growing importance of planting trees as it improves the air quality and also helps to combat global warming. So, it is my humble request to all the readers to help save the environment by spreading awareness about planting trees and participating in their local community tree plantation drives. A small collective step today can help build a greener tomorrow.



URVI A. PIRAMAL

CHAIRPERSON
ASHOK PIRAMAL GROUP

Ms. Piramal has been a member of Technology and Quality Improvement Committee of IMC since its inception in 1994, and also the Chairperson of Supply Chain & Retail business (Internal Trade) Committee (04-05)

She has a Bachelor of Science degree and has attended the Advance Management Program at Harvard Business School

Ms. Piramal has received a number of awards for her contribution to business. She was awarded the Qimpro Gold Standard Award for excellence in Managing Quality Improvement programmes across the Group

She has won the Outstanding Woman Industrialist Award presented by the Marine Lines Junior Chamber and the Yami Woman Award for her outstanding contribution to business

She also has to her credit the Cheminor Award from the India Institute of Materials Management. She was honoured with the Giants International Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to business in 2015

She is a Trustee of the Piramal Education Trust, Ashok G Piramal Trust and Urvi Ashok Piramal Foundation (UAPF) which has been set up for the underprivileged. She is on the board of Population First, an NGO working on creating awareness for the girl child

Ms. Piramal is a wildlife enthusiast and has published two books - "My Wildside: India and Africa". She spends her leisure time reading, listening to music and traveling extensively



*Ms. Urvi 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? HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I did my Bachelors Degree in the Sciences. I was married at a very young age and when I lost my husband I was 32 yr old, with three young children. With support from my family I started working in the family business.

Thirty seven years back I entered into a very male dominated industry. First thing I had to do is to show commitment and get knowledge about business and finance. I visited the shop floor and learnt finance from a tutor. After a few years I also did The Advanced Management Programme from Harvard Business School.



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

It gives me immense pleasure to have being selected.

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

Since the lockdown last year my routine has changed and I have been working from home. Before that my day began by going to the gym and then straight up to my office. Morning would be devoted to routine work followed by meetings with my colleagues. Evenings were spent with the family and weekends with grandchildren.

Diwali holiday are always celebrated with the whole family where we spend quality time with each other.

An example of managing work and family life is when I used to visit our glass factory in Gujarat. I used to leave early in the morning and make sure I came back on the same day even if it was late at night so that I could be with my children in the morning before they left for school. These are the small way I used to try and balance my work and family life.

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

It gives me a feeling of great achievement to have managed my business well and also brought up my children with the right values.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO KEEP WALKING WHEN THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS PLANNED? WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Life throws up challenges when we least expect. So I believe that we have to be prepared for any challenge that comes our way. You may not get the exact results you are looking for. Always have plan B in place. Never give up. Find out why your strategy is not working and change it if it needs to be changed.

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

Global warming and climate change is of great concern to me and I would love to change that in the world.



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

Knowledge, commitment and hard work are the three most important aspects to focus on. Challenges come up when you least expect them to so don't give up. Look for where you can make a change. Find a new path and I am sure you reach your goal.

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?

Forest cover in India is only 24.56%. So planting of trees is a very important solution to global warming. I believe if all of us live consciously and do our little bit whether it is conserving water or not using plastics, I am sure we can make an impact on the reduction of the carbon footprint.



ARINDAM DEY SARKAR

DGM - HOSPITALITY & SERVICE EXCELLENCE
WOODLANDS MULTISPECIALITY HOSPITAL, KOLKATA

INFLUENCER, INNOVATOR, PATIENT COACH

Successfully completed 4 JCI (Joint commission International, Chicago) audits as Team leader in Apollo Gleneagles Hospital

Successfully launched online Patient feedback system in Apollo Gleneagles Hospital in 2013

Received 1st prize in Service Excellence category in 2018 among entire Apollo group of Hospitals

Certified as Exception Patient Experience coach by Medline Institute, Chicago in 2019

Received Healthcare Excellence award from Indian Achievers forum in 2021

✉ arindamads@yahoo.co.in



Arindam Dey Sarkar 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 with Hotels after my Hotel Management course in 1999. Then within a short period of time I shifted to Healthcare sector. Started my healthcare journey with Apollo group of hospitals as Housekeeping Supervisor in 2002 and completed as Sr. Manager Service Excellence of Apollo Gleneagles Hospital, Kolkata in 2019. During this 17 yrs of journey I have been able to learn lots in healthcare operation, Quality, Facility management, Healthcare Hospitality etc. During this period I have been sent to USA , Malaysia for Healthcare learning. Fortunate enough to play a key leadership role in 4 consecutive JCI audits in 2009 / 2012/2015/2018 at Apollo Gleneagles Hospital ,Kolkata. Have received 1st prize in Service Excellence category among the entire Apollo group in 2018 Currently heading entire Service Excellence and Hospitality vertical of Woodlands Multispecialty hospital , RPSG group.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

It was my passion from my childhood to be a leader in Healthcare sector.

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

In one word "SUPER PROUD"



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

Always try to maintain clear line between 2 life. Always give importance on priority situation

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

1. In 2019 when I received "EXCEPTIONAL PATIENT COACH "certificate from Medline Institute, Chicago
2. In 2018 when I received 1st prize in Service Excellence among the entire Apollo group of Hospitals

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

Always engage myself in doing innovative work which has better outcome

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Discipline / Dedication / Commitment

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

Poverty / Healthcare infrastructure/ Education system

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

JUST DO IT PASSIONATELY

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 advice will be first love nature and then try to adapt with the nature. Planting trees is the second step to love nature. Trees always give good results in every form so I always support in plantation



NAMRATA PUROHIT

ENTREPRENEUR AND FITNESS EXPERT, PARTNER
THE PILATES STUDIO, THE EARTH CIRCLE

HEALTH COACH, WRITER

Founder - The Pilates Studio

Founder - The Earth Circle

Created a music video - Flow

Author - The Lazy Girl's Guide to Being Fit

Awarded Fitness Expert, Entrepreneur and/or
Influencer of the year by prestigious brands
and magazines like Vogue, Elle, Reebok,
Global Spa, Exhibit, Wow woman achievers.

 @namratapurohit



*Namrata 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 has been incredible. It started when I was 15, my father was hosting a Pilates course in Mumbai and had brought down an instructor from Canada to do the course. I begged to be a part of it and manage to get myself on it. The moment the course started, I knew I was in love. We opened a small studio at the basement of a popular gym, we had to share the space with other activities that were being held there too. A few months into it, we knew we had to find our own space and that's what we did. We converted my father's office into a private training studio and slowly started expanding. Having started the centre purely out of passion and love for fitness, it is very exciting that now we have 25 studios and can share the experience and spread awareness across the country.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I literally fell into it. I had a bad fall at 15 and injured my knee, after having to undergo a surgery, I was unsure if I would ever be able to play squash, dance and do all the other activities I did. I tried various forms of exercise for months to feel better but I was not fine. Only when I did the Pilates course did I feel relief. Just a few days into the course I was pain free and literally thought I was experiencing magic. This is when I knew I had to spread the magic of Pilates.



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

It does feel great, it is very exciting and overwhelming to be on such a prestigious list with incredible people from all across the country, and it also motivates me and makes me want to work harder.

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

I usually wake up by 5:30am and leave home to spend time with my horse and train with my riding coach. I get to the studio by 9am and take class and work from 9am to 4pm or 5pm. In the evening I spend time with my family and on some days I do a dance class or my singing class.

I think it is very important to balance work and ones personal life and I do give both a lot of importance, so I try my best not to mix the two. When I am with my family or doing activities for myself I am completely in the moment and with the people I am with, and if I am working I try to be more than a 100% there. On most days I try to stick to my timings and work schedule.

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

There definitely have been things that make me feel happy, and make me feel like I did something right, something good.

The step to open our stand alone studio was a big one, a decision I am glad we took.

When we opened our first franchise of The Pilates Studio that was a proud moment too and of course all the other franchises that have opened make us feel like we are able to spread magic across the country.

When I wrote my first book at the age of 18, that was extremely exciting.

Creating the song and music video – Flow. Starting The Earth Circle.

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

Honestly, I genuinely love the journey. The process of doing whatever I have done has been incredible and exciting and has all taught me a lot. I always try to see the positives.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Work hard, don't run after success, focus on what you have to do, be honest to yourself and your work, never think you know it all, keep learning and always do the best that you can.



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

- Get rid of plastic
- Make people more conscious and kind towards the environment, animals and each other.
- Get rid of suffering and poverty.

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

Follow your heart, always be honest and KISS: Keep it Safe, Simple and Smart.

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 is a very important initiative, trees are an essential part of a healthy environment. Not only do trees help better the environment in various ways but they also help mentally. The greenery and walking around a park or roaming in the forest has always brought peace and calm, and hence it is essential to have them for all purposes. While planting of trees will help, the solution to global warming and climate change is much larger than that, it is prudent not only to plant trees but to stop cutting so many, to take conscious decisions in our everyday lives, for industries, big businesses and governments to step in. There is a lot of work to be done. However, something is better than nothing and it is essential for all of us to do our part. Like we say on our website, The Earth Circle, one person, one change, one choice at a time.



SHALU NIJHAWAN

VEGAN EDUCATOR, HOLISTIC HEALTH COACH,
HEAD OF OPERATIONS - SHARAN

ANIMAL LOVER, RESCUER & FEEDER, PUBLIC
SPEAKER, VEGAN BUSINESS ADVISOR

Studied Cake Decoration at Le Cordon Bleu and post that founded and successfully headed 3 cake boutiques in Bengaluru which were highest rated in the region for 5 consecutive years

Helped numerous people reverse diseases like Diabetes, Hypertension, Obesity, Infertility and Autoimmune conditions only through Food & Lifestyle changes without any medicines. Also, conducted several talks on Healthy Living for corporates

During the lockdown, provided more than 1000 meals to COVID affected families single handedly in Bengaluru

Featured in several magazines like Women's Era & Conflating Visions and interviewed by All India Radio FM Rainbow on National Small Industries Day

Proud Vegan Mom to Two Vegan Kids

Instagram: @shalunijhawann

Email: shalu.nij@gmail.com



*Shalu 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?
HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?**

I was running a successful bakery business with 3 outlets. There came a point where I started feeling more connected to nature & animals. I started to recognize & consider my responsibilities towards the voiceless. I hoped to be their voice. It led me to choose a lifestyle devoid of any animal products. I experienced immense health benefits too. My zeal to learn led me to study holistic nutrition. I started helping my family & friends reverse their lifestyle diseases. This was possible to achieve just with food & lifestyle changes. With compassion building, I started rescuing injured animals & birds in Bengaluru.

Now I endeavor to spread awareness about health, animal rights, veganism & sustainability through various outreach programs. I am now a consultant for disease reversal through food & reconnection to nature. I also conduct Disease Management & healthy cooking workshops.

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

I am humbled and super motivated to work harder. It feels great to be recognised especially while working towards my passion - Healthy Living through Reconnection to Nature and my dream of A Vegan World. I accept this honour on the behalf of all unsung heroes working tirelessly towards the cause of Animal Liberation and End of Speciesism.



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

I start my day with a short affirmation practice session after which I get into the kitchen. Since I love cooking for my kids, I spend the morning planning and preparing their meals. During this time, I work on new vegan recipes to reach out to more people through my cooking workshops.. I also cook for the strays and feed them post which I begin my work, patient consultations, workshops and office work. Post work, I spend some evening time going out for a walk and exercising which is my "me time". After that is family time. I enjoy movie nights with kids and it's lovely seeing them grow. They take all my worries away. My days often end with long conversations with my husband who has been a constant pillar of support and I am lucky to have a great full time advisor by my side.

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

I feel more than anything else, the lives I have been able to impact and save (both humans and animals), through my talks, consultations, workshops and rescues has been my biggest achievement so far. I also was able to train more than 20 uneducated and underprivileged staff while I was running my bakery business. To see them now, capable of earning a living and supporting their families, swells my heart with pride

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

It's always my family that supports and motivates me when I am feeling low. Especially my dad. He always pushes me to work harder and reach higher. My sister, who is always there for me, encourages me to keep following my passion. Also, I try to remember my "Why". Why did I start doing what I am doing right now? That brings me to understanding the impact of my work. I, then, know that stopping is definitely not an option.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

I have found success when I have followed my heart without worrying about what I would get. Being grateful and being present in the moment has helped me immensely.

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

1. End animal agriculture & stop destruction of forests
2. Make all plastic disappear (especially from the oceans)
3. Ban all unhealthy food production



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

Work hard, don't depend on anyone for your success and be happy in every situation, failure or success, you will still be a better version of 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?

Honestly, I feel happy but also feel that this and many more such initiatives with mass adoption can collectively, yet possibly be a solution to repair and reform the damages already at the global scale. If there is anything that you are doing to help our environment and biodiversity, you already are a hero and an achiever.



KAMIYA JANI

CHIEF TRAVELLING OFFICER/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CURLYTALES

CONTENT CREATOR, ENTREPRENEUR, INFLUENCER

Ex-Journalist

Presenter

Author/Writer

Won the title of Superwoman by Social Samosa

Featured in Times Of India, Economic Times, CBNC TV18 etc

📷 @kamiya_jani

✉️ kamiya@curlytales.com



*Kamiya 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 always interested in journalism and presenting news so I graduated from RD National College. I graduated in BMM & I specialised in journalism. After Graduation, soon after I joined the digital arm of CNBC TV 18 where I would write articles about personal finance, taxation, and how to manage your investments for a good 1.5 years. I figured I didn't have an opportunity to be in front of the camera here as it was all about writing and hence I decided to Switch my job and I moved to a channel that was just launching and was looking for faces and producers. So I joined Bloomberg which was known as BTV I back then as it was a collaboration between Bloomberg and UTV. I joined as a producer for a show which was known as the Autocar show but I still didn't get a camera facing roll and was always a producer, however I learnt a lot about video production and what goes behind the scenes. I worked there for 2 years. 2010 I made a switch to ET now in 2010 as a news anchor finally and I would talk about stock market and would do early morning shows. 2010 was also the year I got married and for the next 6 years I was here talking about the stock market and from early morning shows I got into mainstream market shows. But even though I had a great job + personal life as I had become a mother in the interim but still I felt a void and I was not satisfied with the job and with what I was doing hence I quit in the year 2016 - 2017 and started Curly Tales which is all about travel as I really wanted to travel and explore the world I give myself a year's time to explore what I really wanted to do and that's how the journey for CT began.



HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

Even when I was working as a news anchor or a producer at the news channels I would often go to media junkets although mine was related either to auto or business I saw that there were a whole host of people who were actually travelling just as a full-time profession. They were travel journalists, there were travel writers and that's when I realised that it could be a full-time job. When I quit in 2017, I decided to start a travel blog where I would write about my experiences but soon after I realised that there aren't many platforms who were doing videos and that's how we started doing videos along with blogs which was a great hit and that's how Curly Tales is where it is and today we have our own website and we are now available on all social platforms.

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

It's truly an honour and a privilege to be honest to be selected amongst 99 achievers of India like amidst the population of 130 crore if I am selected and recognised for my work I couldn't be more happy, so thank you very much to you guys for identifying me as one of the achievers. All I ever wanted to achieve really was to travel around the world and follow my passion as much as I could but I think in this journey I have achieved a lot more and I think that just happened because I was honest to my own soul for what it really wanted to achieve. Thank you very much.

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

There are so many. To start with, it is the 99 achievers of India that currently tops the list. A community of 5 million people absolutely love us because we have a 98% positive feedback on our content because in times where a lot of trolling happens or negative comments happen, fortunately for us that's not the case and we have a lot of positive feedback coming in. Being invited by the tourism boards in India and internationally, I think it's such an honour to work with the governments across the globe and them trusting in us and putting in money, sitting across the table with some well-renowned politicians, being a self-sufficient company, as well as bringing happiness to everyone's life through our content because that's the intent. We don't want to do too much negative news but just bring a smile to everyone's face, encourage them and inspire them to travel and go follow their dreams. Also another achievement clearly is celebrities coming on our show and are so happy to collaborate with Curly Tales every time they want to promote their film so that is some sort of validation coming in from some of the most successful personalities.

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

When I am like really really disturbed because of course there are so many things happening and we are multitasking all the time and I feel like things are not in my control anymore, I switch off everything and I close my eyes and meditate for a little while and I listen to Sadguru's motivational talks and suddenly I feel like I am so silly to worry about things...



..I take a break, I meditate and I go on a journey internally and then I bounce back and I know that journey is never going to be 100% smooth and if it is what's the fun in it so there are always going to be ups and downs. So all you need to do is gather your strength and walk again. I always ask for stronger shoulders to be able to take up as much responsibility as I can instead of not having challenges in life because I know that it's a part and parcel of life.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

The principles we follow to achieve success is being honest to our audience, a lot of integrity and very high on ethics because if we are recommending something to someone we got to be sure that the thing is as good as you know Curly Tales is today India's number one food and travel platform. People are taking our suggestions seriously. We have our commerce platform where people can book packages. Now we are not a tour company but we are actually going there and experiencing the same as the community does. People are investing time and effort not only by watching our content but also by spending money with us and going and having a same experience as we do so we think it's a huge responsibility on us and as much as possible we should be honest in our content. For us, content means everything and our consumer is the king. We need to be sure by the end of it that our viewer is happy with what they are watching and reader is happy with what they are reading and anybody who goes out and experiences our experience should be 100% satisfied with what we are presenting and the success quotient is not related to which brands we are working with or how much money we are making but it's purely on the basis of how much love we are getting from our audiences and how big our community is growing. That's the only intent we work with.

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

If I had a magic stick, 3 things I would ask for is of course a cleaner world as it would help save the environment, a good hygiene practice being done by all of us be it pollution or safety measures second thing would be a roof above everyone's head, all around the world and the third thing would be nobody sleeps hungry in the night, they are all well fed.

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

Two things I would like to tell to anybody who is starting out first would be focused and understand what you really want to achieve and put your blinkers on and be really focused on it and the second would be, be consistent because if you believe in something trust me it is a matter of time that you get noticed and people identify you. So be focused and be consistent are the two things I would like to tell anybody who is starting out.



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 this is amazing to be a part of the biggest tree plantation drive. As I said, we all should be responsible for the environment around us because we call it our mother earth because it is our mother and we all should respect and I often say that I worship nature and I see God in nature and not really in idols. For me, my sense of God/belief is when I see waterfalls, mountains or lakes because this is something beyond human control and this is something God has created and we should truly value it, be it our forests, our plants and we just need to respect our environment as much as possible so I am very happy to be a part of this drive.



JAMNADAS MAJETHIA

CHAIRMAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR
HATS OFF PRODUCTIONS LTD

PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, WRITER, ACTOR

Was honored with 'Maharathi Of Gujarat Award 2008'. During Sabarmati Festival 2016 by Gujarat CM Anandiben Patel

Recognition and accolades for his outstanding acting ability were strewn on his path right from a young age; He won more than 20 awards for acting in inter-collegiate drama competitions in a short span of 4 years

He is also the recipient of the prestigious Gujarat State Award for his role in the path breaking Gujarati film 'Dariya Chhoru' and 'Sangeet Natya Academy Award' for his play 'Suryavanshi'

Under his supervision many of the shows produced by Hats off Productions won various prestigious awards in various categories. Like Indian Telly Awards for Best Sitcom to 'Khichdi', ITA Award for Best Serial to 'Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai', ITA award for best Serial to 'Baa Bahoo Aur Baby', The Indian Telly Awards Best Weekly Programme to 'Ek Packet Umeed', etc.

@ejd_majethia

✉ hatsoffjd@hatsoffproduction.com



Jamnadas 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? HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I am the co-founder of HATS OFF PRODUCTIONS (Theatre), and from early on showbiz has come rather naturally than effortlessly by wears different hats at different times proving my versatility as a producer, director, creative director, co-writer, and an actor.

Before embarking on my own with HATS OFF PRODUCTIONS in 1995, I was no stranger to the media world, due to my stint with Mudra Communications, where I handled sponsored programmes, various kind of ad campaigns for Mudra Communications & Mudra Videotech. This experience helped me gain a holistic view of the media industry. I also produced & directed a few Ad films for reputed brands like Big bazaar, Vodafone, Vivo, etc.

Along with co producer Mr. Aatish Kapadia, at Hats Off Productions, we have had an amazing journey. Hats Off Productions is the one that brought a change in Hindi film thinking by making 'Khichdi the Movie'. It was the first ever TV show in India which graduated into a movie. Our honourable Prime Minister Shree Narendra Modi, then the Chief Minister of Gujarat, also watched the premier and complimented the fruitful efforts made by them to entertain the audience. I have been working continuously for the growth and enhancement of HATS OFF PRODUCTIONS and desire to create a multitude of Films, Web series TV serials for various entertainment platforms.



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

Along with Aatish Kapadia HATS OFF PRODUCTIONS has produced more than 30 shows of different genres for various channels like , 'KHICHDI' (A Super hit comedy show) for Star, 'INSTANT KHICHDI' (A Super hit comedy show) , 'SARABHAI VS SARABHAI' (A Super hit comedy show) for Star One & , 'SARABHAI VS SARABHI Take 2' - (Web Series) for Hot Star, 'BAA BAHOO AUR BABY' (A Super hit family drama), 'BADI DOOOOR SE AAYE HAIN' (Indian television's first alien comedy series), 'R K LAXMAN KI DUNIYA' - (A comedy show to express a common man's problem) for SAB TV, 'KHICHDI SEASON 3' - (Season 3 of a Super hit comedy show for Star & HOT STAR) , 'BHAKARWADI' - an comic family drama for SAB TV , etc. and currently producing 'WAGLE KI DUNIYA' - a comic family drama for SAB TV and 'JANANI' - a family drama for ISHARA.

Our dream of being leaders in the entertainment industry was realized when for the first time in India, a television serial graduated to the big screen. It was, in fact, the serial 'Khichdi' which opened the doors for our entry into Bollywood. 'Khichdi - the Movie' released on 1st Oct 2010 entrenched our name in the list of hit films produced that year which had a successful run for 50 days, 7 weeks in Mumbai theatres, surprising quite a few multi-starrers which released before and after its release and received huge response from audiences. And it was like an icing on the cake when Shri Narendra Modi who was Gujarat's CM then watched the film and praised our efforts to entertain people. During Sabarmati Festival in Jan 2016, Khichdi Team had been also felicitated by Gujarat CM Anandiben Patel.

Hats Off Productions takes pride in saying that we create responsible, varied and highly stimulating entertainment that brings a broad smile on the face of audiences, just when they are about to shed a tear of relief.



MUNIRA SHAHBUDDIN POONAWALLA

CABIN CREW, MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER, HAPPINESS
MENTOR PERSONA BUILDING

*SPECIALISED IN EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TIME
AND STRESS MANAGEMENT CRM AND SOFT SKILLS*

*She was a member of the Aga Khan Youth and sports
board for India in 1989, member of the Aga Khan Social
Welfare Board of India in 2013 and presently a member
of Life Foundation and MJD Foundation*



*Munira 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 inspiration is my mother who is a social worker. She taught me the values of empathy, compassion, perseverance and patience through her exemplary life. Today, I thank God for giving me the chance to inspire touch people's lives like my mother.

I studied in DJ Girls high school was A Sports Captain at a very young age started Meditation. 4-5 am I was enrolled as a Girl Guide at the age of 9, engaged in Community Service camps and curriculum activities made me an independent person since then After participating in a couple of Fashion Shows, at the age of 19 I joined Saudia Airline as Cabin Crew supporting my family as a daughter

Thirty years of flying with this reputed Airline helped me groom and hone my skills in the Hospitality Industry. The ocean of experience developed my personality and made me the person I am today.

Healing and transforming-people life through the process of Self development motivated me to specialise in Emotional Intelligence Time and Stress Management and upgrade my soft skills ,work as Motivational healer A happiness mentor specially for the underprivileged who required direction.

I am a proud single mother since 11years, my life revolves around my son and his growth. His accolades and achievements in academics and sports is proof enough that ' YOU DON'T NEED A MAN TO RAISE A CHILD.



I was a member of the Aga Khan Youth and Sports Board for India in 1989, member of the Aga Khan Social Welfare Board for South Mumbai in 2014. and presently a member of Life Foundation and MJD Foundation.

I had great support of my parents, my son's DFA Coach, Mr. Clayton and above all, my son's Alma Mater- Jamnabai Narsee School A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO THE PRINCIPAL- Zeenat Bhojabhoy. I feel blessed. She supported me and offered all the help when I remained out of town due to my work. Her co-operation and coordination made it easy to follow up with my son's school work.

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

I am deeply overwhelmed to be recognised as one among the Top 99 Achievers of India by the ACHIEVERS CLUB OF INDIA . I am encouraged to state that 'THE POWER OF BEING A WOMAN GIVES YOU HOPE TO LOOK BEYOND'.

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

I start my day with Meditation as cabin crew you get quality time with a whole day off made my task easier. Time management helped me immensely...to balance Professional, family, social and community life

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

I always believed in staying positive and did not allow negativity or problems to cloud my thinking. Life is a gift from God, and I wanted to cherish it. I sailed through the challenges of life with grit and determination with the pillars of strength - Hope Determination of my loved ones.

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

My Biggest Achievement:

- In 2018, my son was chosen to represent Team India in Football U-17 at the FISEC GAMES held in BELGIUM Genk Affiliated to IOC (International Olympic Committee) . This has made me a proud mother. I have forgotten all the thorns and storms I have braved while raising him up.
- In 2020 his project was selected for AgaKhan GLOBAL STEM FESTIVAL held in UK
- He achieved 95% in the 2020 ICSE Board Examinations.
- In 2014 he won the chess tournament U-12 held by Chanakya chess club of Mumbai.
- In 2013 he won 3 prizes in the Talent show (rubic cube solved in 48 sec)at the All India Agakhan Cubs and Bulbuls Carnivals.
- A scout since the age of 8 , he is involved in Community Service.

It is THE MERITOCRACY OF YOUR CHILD HIS EFFORTS AND HARDWORK WITH ETHICS AND VALUES. Live your life with integrity replace your fear with Hope with self discipline.



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

I would like to end the COVID -19 pandemic.

The woman and child abuse, Poverty, eliminate global warming create peace on earth

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

Instead of being a victim, turn your pain to victory. Be independent, believe in yourself- DON'T REACT, RESPOND grow each day as refined person.

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?

Although Planting trees is a gradual process surely help global warming, we also need to stop pollution refrain plastic and try to recycle the product would be my message to share as our efforts.



PIYA MARKER

SPECIAL EDUCATOR
THE ADITYA BIRLA INTEGRATED SCHOOL

EDUCATIONIST, SOCIAL INFLUENCER, WRITER

Set up & ran Mumbai's first school for Learning Disabilities in 2004

Set up and currently Head of School for The Aditya Birla Integrated School

The Aditya Birla Integrated School ranked No 1 School for Learning Disabilities in Maharashtra & India for 6 years in a row under my leadership

In March 2021, started a blog on Instagram; to guide, empower and educate about mental health, education and parenting

Trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid



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

WINNERS
2020

 @piyamarker

Q & A

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

My journey so far is best described by this quote " Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." I have enjoyed what I do to the point that even stressful moments have been great learnings and the successes have been sweet rewards. I have to say that all through my journey I have been blessed with wonderful colleagues and a passionate team. This has made my Journey a beautiful one!

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I heard about the BEd in Special Education course from an acquaintance of my parents. Went to check it out simply out of curiosity. I do not know why I was selected as there were so many better qualified candidates. My career as a Special Educator happened to me by chance but I firmly believe it is where I am meant to be, where I am today is testimony to this!

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

I feel very humbled and am delighted to have been considered for such a prestigious title. This recognition makes me want to do more, be better and makes me feel blessed to have come this far.



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

My day is a juggle between being mom, ch f, professional & dog walker!

Right now with WFH, there are blurred lines and the balance has become a challenge. Creating a structure and routine helps to ensure that equal time is given to both. I keep a cut off from work after a particular time and revisit emails or work related assignments after the kids are in bed.

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

My career has so far spanned 23 years and the achievements have been many along the way. I was at the helm of setting up and running one of Mumbai's first schools for children with Learning Disabilities in 2004. With each life I have touched I feel grateful to have had the opportunities to be instrumental in integrating so many children with Special needs back into mainstream education or jobs. My most recent achievement has been the success of my Instagram page that has been dedicated to anyone who needs a reminder that there is always a solution to any challenge we are faced with. Educating and empowering my followers has given me much fulfilment!

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

I remind myself of this quote "Normality is a paved road: It's comfortable to walk, but no flowers grow on it." (Vincent Van Gogh.)"

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Self belief, determination, preparedness, resilience and above all faith that this is where I am meant to be.

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

I would want the world to be safe for Children, education opportunities for all children & employment for all adults!

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

Every step doesn't need to be big they just need to be in the direction of your goal. 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?

Being part of the Tree plantation drive is a selfish endeavour. I am doing my part to make the environment healthy for my children. The way we have adversely affected climate change, one needs to start to rectify this; so that our children have the chance at a better future.



AKTA SEHGAL

FINANCIAL MENTOR & SOCIAL ACTIVIST

MANAS WEALTH, MOTHERHOOD CLUB, VANYAS CRAFT,
KIDDOMENTORING & MCUBE

FINANCIAL MENTOR, TALKSHOW HOST, KIDS- MENTOR

*More than 21 National Awards as a Financial Mentor &
Women Entrepreneur*

1st Citizen Journalist Award by ICMEI by Marwah Studios

*Successfully created a platform for Mothers, Kids and for
knowledge sharing during the lockdown*

6 Anthologies to my credit

*More than 5 years continuously working toward making
Women and kids Financially Literate*

 @akta_manaswealth  sehgalakta@gmail.com



*Akta 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?

Army officers daughter, learnt unity in diversity, believed in myself and followed my passion with panache and perseverance, Driven by three E's - Educate Empower and Enlighten. 20 years of professional experience in the Financial Services industry and life turned after 40, I ventured to full fill my dreams of becoming a poet, Kids mentor & A Social Activist with a different Perspective. Have many first to my credit and I am proud of my upbringing and values, as that's what defines me.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I always wanted to be a Doctor, however fate had something else planned for me, I did become a doctor but a Financial Doctor, I was always keen to look at a blend of marketing and finance and entering into the wealth management industry in 2001 gave me a perfect blend of my technical knowhow and people management skills. That's how I entered the field of investment as I was empathetic and a keen listener which helped me understand, this business or rather passion better.



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

It's indeed a moment of pride and I feel truly humbled to be a part of this esteemed list.

I feel that when you are walking towards your goal, many obstacles come your way and many acknowledgments also, which validate that you are right, to be able to make it to the list, I feel I would thank all my failures as they helped me better and made me always keep my focus intact. Truly delighted and excited to be a part of this Esteemed Achievers list.

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

I play many roles, Wife, Daughter, Mother, Professional, talk show host and the only way I can manage all of these is my sheer planning and discipline. I have my entire month's calendar planned in advance and I am sensitive to 4.5 years old daughters' need and provide her with quality time. As a financial mentor, planning and discipline is what forms the basis of a good successful journey of investments along with patience and long term approach. Since my month and day is planned well in advance I have enough time to achieve my goals and my family goals too. I also take weekly breaks to rejuvenate myself. I priorities my goals and I feel that we should not always aim for perfection, rather focus on getting the work done. I also believe in delegation and work with my team and trust them with their work, and not impose myself. This helps in avoiding any duplication and stress to anyone.

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

1. Weekly Financial Literacy sessions on Facebook
2. 6 Anthologies and more than 70 poems to my credit
3. National Level 1st Prize for one of my Poems in English By Raabta Poetry Platform
4. More than 21 Awards for my efforts
5. 1st citizen journalist award by ICMEI - Closest to my heart
6. A mother of a very creative child who has inspired me
7. More than 150 Talk shows across my platforms and touching the hearts of unlimited people across the globe

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

Aha, that's a good question. My Three Ps always motivate me - Passion Panache and Perseverance. For me failing is of utmost importance as for me FAIL is Forward Action Inward Learning and when we fail we are able to SAIL to RISE - We Suffer, We Accept, We introspect, We learn and then we rise with Respect, We imbibe our learning and Have a smile on our face and Have empathy for self and all.

This is my mantra.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

1. A spade is a Spade
2. Never Say Never
3. Never ask - Why me
4. I am happy that I failed
5. Love yourself, Accept yourself and you will make it happen
7. If you had a magic stick, which are the 3 things you would change in the world?
- 1.100 percent Financial Literacy in India and Say no to Financial Infidelity
2. Experiential learning in all Schools
- 3 Life of Dignity & Inclusion for women, Differently abled individuals and children with special needs

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

Follow your passion, stand by your values and done fear to Fail.

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?

An outstanding initiative and should be mandatory for all to plant trees on all special occasions. As a young parent I feel what we leave behind for generations to come is our environment and values, we need to focus on them and work towards creating a health environment. Trees need to be planted as that's the only way of expressing our gratitude to mother earth by saving her precious kids and giving her more gifts of love and nurture

I would only say, encourage yourself and your kids to plant tree, grow saplings at home and also teach them how to take care of them. This way they will be equipped to understand the importance of many important learnings

1. Patience
2. Long term approach
3. Never give up
4. Discipline
5. Planning
6. Financial Management
7. Empathy
8. Resource protection
9. Say no to artificial resources
10. Above all save the environment



PRIYANKA GAKHAR

STUDENT, ATHLETE, DHOLI, MODEL

CANBERRA DHOLIS

AN ALL-ROUNDER

Received a scholarship to study and play NCAA Division 1 College Soccer in the USA (2017)

Represented state in Soccer and Futsal

Survived a car accident and a multiple bilateral Pulmonary Embolism

Co-owner and founder of Canberra Dholis business

First and only female Dhol player in Canberra

Instagram: @priyagakhar9

Email: priyagakhar7@gmail.com



Priyanka 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 name is Priyanka, Priya for short. I'm 26 years old. I was born and raised in Canberra, Australia. My Dad was born in Simla, and my Mum was born in Delhi, but my family from both sides is originally from Punjab. I am a University student (B. Science in Psychology and B. Sports Coaching and Exercise Science), an athlete, a freelance model and a Dhol player. It's difficult to put me in a box as I am passionate about many different things in life. I have been playing soccer since I was 4 years old. I was in a car accident in 2015, went through months of recovery and rehabilitation and pushed through chronic back and neck pain to land myself a college soccer scholarship in the USA in 2017. When I returned home to Australia for the holidays in 2018, I was diagnosed with blood clots in my lungs, or a Pulmonary Embolism. I've spent the past 3 years recovering from the blood clots, but I am keeping the dreams alive.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I have always loved music. My Nanu loved ghazals, our family would always dance to Bollywood and Punjabi music, and I started playing the piano at the age of 6. I've always had an ear for music and natural rhythm, I just never had time to really pursue anything to do with music as I was always busy with other passions and commitments. I always loved the sound of the Dhol, and a few family friends I knew could play. Going through recovery and having time during the pandemic, I asked a friend if I could borrow a Dhol. I started practicing at home by intuition, and within two weeks I formed a Dholi duo with my friend Hussain and played at a wedding a week later. I guess that's the Punjabi blood rocking in my veins! I am the co-owner and founder of Canberra Dholis, and Canberra's first and only female Dholi.



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

It hasn't really sunk it yet, it feels surreal! I feel honoured, privileged and just really glad to have some recognition for my achievements, although I feel like I have a lot of work to do yet to make a difference.

People tell me that you can't change the world, just to study, get a job and "get settled". I think that's really sad and unfortunate some people still think that way. If I listened to everyone else, I wouldn't be where I am today!

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

Exercise, train, work, study, but also make time for relaxation, meditation, yoga, etc, and sometimes binge-watch shows on Netflix or play my Playstation! It is hard to juggle so many commitments, so it is important to rest. The "grind" culture is unhealthy. We need to normalise balance. Look after your physical and mental health equally. Some days I am busy non stop with back to back commitments, it gets tiring. Rest and recovery is so important, and your health is your greatest wealth!

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

Some of my greatest achievements include going through multiple health issues and doing well academically, getting selected in the U19 Aussie All-Stars womens soccer team and training at UCLA and competing in the Las Vegas Mayors Cup in the USA, being in a car accident and coming out stronger, working hard and receiving a collegiate soccer scholarship to study and play in the USA, surviving a multiple bilateral Pulmonary Embolism, and starting my own Dholi business and being the first and only female Dhol player in my city, amongst many other achievements.

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

Don't get disheartened. Try, try until you succeed. If you fall, get up and keep going. Life means to keep going forward. We all make mistakes and it's okay to make them. We are human! But the best thing is to learn from them so you don't repeat them. Otherwise how would anyone learn?

I also listen to many motivational speakers and Ted Talks to learn from inspirational people. I have my good days, my okay days, and my bad days. However, I always try to remember that I have to keep going for myself and for others. Carpe Diem!



WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Integrity, honesty and respect. These are the principles that my late Nanu (Maternal Grandfather) followed. Col. Tej Bahadur Sardana was a senior Indian Army Officer. He fought for India in many wars – in 1962, 1965, 1971, etc. He lived by these principles in his daily life and inspired all of us to do the same. He also always said that equality, unity and humanity was the highest religion. He had five children – 3 daughters and 2 sons. He educated his daughters equally as his sons, and he always said that a country can only progress if the daughters are educated. Educate a girl, educate a family and a nation! I just don't give up. How could I when I have such strength in my blood? I don't think I could say that I have failed at anything. I give everything my best and my all, and in order to be successful you have to. I still have a long way to go before I can say I am successful though!

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

Poverty, gender inequality and ban weapons.

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

Perseverance. Keep going even if you feel like giving up. If you don't give it a go you'll never know!

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 very privileged and humbled that I can make a small difference. After all, "Little drops of water, little grains of sand, make the mighty ocean and the pleasant land!" There is science based evidence which shows planting trees is one of the easiest and effective ways of tackling climate change caused by greenhouse gasses. As trees grow, they absorb and store CO2 emissions that are driving global warming.

It is really disheartening to see the pollution in India. I really hope something changes. I wish there was clean air for Indians to breathe.

We can all take steps in bringing about change. For example – urge governments to take climate change action now, use renewable energy wisely, grow your own fruit and vegetable garden at home, consume less, waste less, reuse, and recycle more.



ALYONA KAPOOR

FOOD ENTREPRENEUR

KHANA KHAZANA PRODUCTIONS PVT LTD, FOODFOOD,
SK RESTAURANTS

*Worked alongside Sanjeev on his first cookbook-
Khazana of Indian Recipes which was published in 1999*

*Successfully launched India's first 24X7 food TV channel-
FoodFood*

*Have been raising funds and creating awareness since
more than 15 years for Forum for Autism, India*

*Have been supporting Akshaya Patra, a foundation which
serves wholesome meals to underprivileged students.*

CFO at Khana Khazana India Pvt LTD

 @alyonakapoor  alyonakapoor@gmail.com



*Alyona 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?

As a kid, I travelled a lot with my father who has serviced the Indian Navy. Travel helped me broaden my horizons and I had a fine amalgamation of various cultures which also resulted in creating even the simplest of the dishes to be delicious and healthier. All my life, I have been surrounded by great food. My mother is a great cook, my elder sister is a chef and that's how I met Sanjeev. He was her friend and colleague back then. Later, we got married. After which I started working in the food business alongside him. When he began hosting the cookery show Khana Khazana, I helped him in the production because I had spent enough time on the sets and I gained a lot of interest and experience by that time. Later, we started our own business and I am thankful to be a part of this wonderful journey with him!

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

After our marriage, I started working along with Sanjeev. He and I started Khana Khazana India Pvt LTD. together and then followed FoodFood channel and SK restaurants. Since the beginning, our journey has been quite amazing and we managed to make it till here, together. Since I studied Commerce and Computers, it really helped me handle my work smoothly while managing the finance and administrative affairs in our company. I still remember the time we took a short trip to Khandala when Sanjeev was working on his very first cookbook. It was amazing, we tried and tested, created some new ones and wrote all of the recipes together. Not to mention, it has been a memorable journey so far and since then, I have supported and have been a part of everything he did. I look forward to many more achievements together!



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

In one word, I'd say I am truly overwhelmed. I feel honoured, humbled and grateful to have been chosen for this recognition. These are a few times in your life when you feel that your hard work has paid off and I am happy to say this is one of those moments!

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

I believe every day is a new day! There's no precise schedule that I have in my life apart from my everyday office routine but yes, I do make sure that I give some time to my meditation, my fitness goals and get a good night's sleep. After all, health is wealth!

As for the work-life balance, when I am not at office, either I am travelling with Sanjeev, or having that evening cup of tea with my mother-in-law or cooking dinner for my beloved daughters, the balance is pretty smooth. Thankfully, I don't have to struggle in that arena because of my partner. It has been a breeze so far if I may say so.

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

I have co-authored Sanjeev's first cookbook, Khazana of Indian recipes, which we launched in the year 1999. I have also assisted him in launching India's first 24x7 food channel, FoodFood. Apart from this, I have been a part of Forum for Autism for more than 15 years which supports autistic children. Sanjeev and I are very close to this organization and we have been raising funds, creating awareness and helping them in any manner we can. I am also a part of Akshaya Patra foundation which aims at providing wholesome meals to underprivileged children. These are some of the achievements I feel truly proud of!

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

I do things my way but I don't keep a lot of expectations out of it which is why it doesn't affect me if things go out of the way. I believe in 'living each day as it comes' so I don't stress much about the future plans and try to live in the moment. Whenever I feel I have an opportunity to learn something new, I grab it. And thankfully, that is what has brought me till here today!

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

My mantra is, never let an opportunity slip out of your hand. Be on your toes all the time, learn and share whatever you can. Keep smiling, motivate others, be humble and share your knowledge, success is going to follow!



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

If I had a magic stick right now, the only thing I would wish is for COVID-19 to go away and that everyone remains healthy, safe and sound.

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

I'd like to say, get out of your comfort zone and go that extra mile with patience, you might tumble in the beginning but keep the focus and you will definitely reap the fruits of your labour which bring you happiness along with laurels. Take challenges head-on, with a smile on your face. Never cease to work hard as there is no shortcut to hard 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?

Nature looks out for us and we need to reciprocate by looking out for nature. With the rise in global warming, there are only a few things we can do to help revive our mother nature and improve the air and surroundings around us. Each of us has to more responsible to plant trees for a healthy living in the foreseeable future. I feel so proud to be a part of this tree plantation drive in India and I wish to continue doing more and more such plantation drives for a safe and healthy future. I encourage more and more people to do their bit and help us rejuvenate nature.



HEETA UMESH PARIKH

FOUNDER, CEO

SILVER SPUN BRAND SOLUTIONS

PUBLICIST, STRATEGIST AND CONTENT CREATOR

*Successfully founded Silver Spun Brand Solutions,
an Integrated Marketing Agency*

Managed 100+ clients in the span of 5 years

Successfully executed more than 50+ campaigns

📷 @silverspunbrandsolutions ✉ heeta@silverspun.in



*Heeta 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 thus far has been phenomenal. What started as an accidental foray into the world of public relations, has bloomed into a full-time vocation. One could say that an accidental publicist found her niche. I had initially started working from home with no team.

When business expanded, we onboarded more talent. It was after two years that we bought our own office space. Now, we are a team of 10+ professionals working in the PR and social media marketing domains.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

Having initially worked with MTV, I quit my job in 2013 and shared the idea of starting an Integrated Marketing Agency with a friend. Incidentally, Wafflist, the first eggless store in India, was looking for a PR hand and my friend advised me to get in touch. Despite having no prior experience in PR, he showed faith in my ability to pull it off. So, I met the concerned people without any brand or logo, but with a plan. Luckily, I bagged the project!

This was in November 2014. Since then, there is no looking back. Most opportunities have come through recommendations and referrals.



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

Undeniably, it is a great feeling. While there is a long way to go still and lots on my 'to-achieve list', this recognition does boost one's confidence. I feel honoured and privileged to be one of the top 99 Achievers of India.

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

In the office, before the pandemic, our day always started with ten minutes of a team meeting in the office. We have efficiently adapted to remote work, and all of my team is working from home currently. Now, my usual day starts with mandatory phone calls with the team. My days are packed with meetings, calls and more, throughout. Of course, there are crises to manage and challenges to overcome daily, but the end of each day brings with it a sense of fulfilment and reaffirms my commitment to keep at it.

Balancing family and work life is definitely challenging. I try not to work weekends—maybe just half a day on Saturday. On weekdays, my laptop and phone get shut after 6 PM, post which I take one hour of 'me-time' to disconnect and reflect. A fresh workday awaits at 10 AM the next morning.

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

Inception of Silver Spun Brand Solutions

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

Six years in this industry have taught me that it is never a smooth sail. Knowledge of dealing with crises is imperative. As a leader, one must never let problems bog down your spirit or work ethic, and encourage solutions-focused problem-solving within the team. All we need to do is put forth a solution. That is the mantra which keeps me going.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

My life's principles are clear. You need to plan, strategize, execute, evaluate and then re-evaluate. It is crucial to follow these things to achieve your goals. It goes without saying that consistency, hard work and perseverance take you to the top, no matter your field.



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

If I had a magic wand to change three things, my first pick would be women's rights. Women are half the sky and still considered to be less important than men. We cannot deny women power and decision-making anymore. The second would be to better protect the rights of infants and children. To say the least, child abuse is disturbing and must stop at once. Thirdly, poverty and unequal access to wealth needs to go. I believe if hitherto marginalized social groups like women are brought on at par with men, the graph of poverty will see a long overdue change.

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

Remember things are never easy. Anyone being lauded for their success has given it blood and sweat, and there's a lot unseen under the tip of the 'success iceberg'. A lot of hard work, determination and perseverance goes into the making of a successful person. Stick to your goals and work hard. Keep planning, strategizing and re-evaluating. Success shall be yours one day.

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 onus to contribute to a better world is on everyone, no exceptions withstanding. Either by giving time, money or expertise, a responsible citizenry is one in which everyone contributes. As for this plantation drive, it is a good feeling to be able to give back to the society that has given me so much. I would like to continue this association by being part of more such drives and events.



HAMSA IYER

SUSTAINABILITY EXPERT
ECO PRODUCTS INDIA

SUSTAINABILITY ENABLER, GREEN CHAMPION

In 2015, she published a report on SWM best practices in Mumbai - documenting citizen initiatives, which was then published on Science Direct

Set up a waste management system in Nalanda Public School, building awareness across the school involving the school's housekeeping to students to teachers.

Almost every month, she enables others to compost, choose sustainable menstruation choices and talk about different aspects of sustainable living

Set up Eco Products India, 2 years ago - to make products that enable a sustainable lifestyle accessible on one platform for people who are conscious about making the shift to sustainable life

Instagram [@eco_nut](#)

Email hamsaiyeregmail.com



Hamsa 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 known for a very long time that doing something for the environment has been my calling. It was only a matter of years, that the calling found me -in waste management, and sustainable living.

I've been lucky to have been mentored by champions and leaders, all of who walk the talk. In school, we were taken to treks to nearby places. Guided nature talks by experts made me inquisitive. In college, learning about the work that others are doing got me more curious. So, it was only a matter of time, that I found myself wanting to walk the talk too! But this time around, the journey was inward. And that has been a powerful transition.

My first big step was to start composting, and the overnight change in my dust bindustbin was something I did not expect. Our lives are filled with 'out-of-sight-out-of-mind' syndrome that we do not see the damage of our actions. That one green step led me to another. I started other practices - carrying my set of reusable cutlery, switched to sustainable menstrual hygiene products, using natural cleaners at home - every habit became an addiction. Now I love helping others from my own experience - and there is so much to learn even here.



I worked on an MLA campaign for a friend's mom, and that was an eye-opener on how systems work. That opened my eyes to the plethora of opportunities where we can enable. I always wanted to help institutions, people be part of change. Getting people to take ownership of their own waste has been rewarding. At Nalanda Public School, I helped set up a waste management system/process that has stayed on till date. Looking at the system's success, the principal opened doors to the students to bring their e-waste from homes to ensure that we have better outreach. Everywhere I have discussions around this – people want to be part of solutions. And we are seeing that we are building communities around this kind of change. A lot of conversations also happen around this: We need better infrastructure and mechanisms for waste to become resources. We need better citizen participation at so many levels to envision the change. In 2000, Almitra Patel fought the battle for better waste management and clean cities. In 2012, Bangalore laid another path breaking law – mandatory segregation at source. We're now saying segregating 6 ways is the way ahead. We've come a long way – and these are super exciting times to lead the change.

Even at my time during Zensar/RPG Foundation I saw transformation internally and through the communities that are interacting with the Biodiversity Park project. I would always feel that people should protect nature, in whatever way possible. But here I saw people connecting to a green space for various reasons – from a safe space to exercise in open air to just seeing the butterflies in the park. That realisation shifted me to believe that the space of happiness and empathy is extremely powerful to contribute for.

Now at my journey, I know that I want to enable more 'green' and contribute to building a green army. That's what I'm doing at MKCL Knowledge Foundation.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

At home, my mother always got me to think – do something different that will benefit society. She read many inspiring stories of change makers from newspapers/magazines. All of that totally went in, definitely.

I am inspired by many knowledgeable people, who I have been lucky to meet. They have paved the way for many of us. It's now our job to take the lead, participate and bring in the change. Every time I hear about someone doing their bit to do their bit to conserve nature or to preserve what we have on this planet from a space of love – it leaves me inspired and energised to do something.

Meeting the right people, with great enthusiasm is the perfect motivation to keep doing what I love.

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

Thank you for recognising the hard work that I've put in. It feels good to be acknowledged, and appreciated. Definitely a boost to do more. This is a great opportunity to be connected to like-minded individuals and organisations.



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

I start early, and finish most of my chores in the morning. This includes meal prep, taking care of any errands, and 80% of the cooking for the day. All of this is done together with my toddler, partner and household help. Then I get majority of the work done that needs my individual attention for an hour, prioritise what needs to be done – calendarize what's not getting done for a while. I connect with my team, and then get other stuff done.

Somewhere in the middle of the day, there are conversations with people who would like to connect on different topics – sustainable menstruation, composting, natural cleaners, etc. I also send in any billing, settle accounts with vendors on the go during tea time.

Evenings are for un-winding, and typically community project time. We've been trying to set up a waste management system in our housing society – and we're enabling some key conversations. Life is all of it put together. Of course, my spouse encouraging me and supporting me makes a huge difference. He's always around to ensure that things run smoothly. I know he's got my back, no matter what!

Sure, some days are haywire – but that's okay. Best not to mull about it – and just move on.

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

In 2015, I Published a report on SWM best practices in Mumbai – documenting citizen initiatives, which was then published on Science Direct.

Set up a waste management system in Nalanda Public School, building awareness across the school involving the school's housekeeping to students to teachers.

Udaan Biodiversity Park, a project at Zensar that got me closer to nature.

Almost every month, I enable others to compost, choose sustainable menstruation choices and talk about different aspects of sustainable living.

Set up Eco Products India, 2 years ago – to make products that enable a sustainable lifestyle accessible on one platform for people who are conscious about making the shift to sustainable life.

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

This is easier said than done, but what has helped me:

a. Having a safe space among my team mates – does great for mental health. All of us know we trust each other – and we speak our heart + mind together. This helps deeply, when we know we're there to just listen – without any judgement.



- b. Focusing on the smaller things works very well. Helps build confidence and not loose spirit of doing things.
- c. Being financially secure is a very important thing. Passion is fruitful when your stomach and heart – both feel secure.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Learning something new, every day.

Re-doing/restarting from scratch is not the end of the world.

Sustainability is a way of life, we build on the small things and value all of it together.

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

- a. Better citizen participation and conscious consumers. We need more voices to be heard.
- b. We work on preserving environment and the nature around us from a space of love.
- c. Empowering our partners by enabling gender equity policies such as equal parental leave, more work-life balance and encouraged participation at home for everyone.

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

Follow your heart, and believe in yourself. The path to happiness is all about discovering 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 believe that all of us need to understand Tree Plantation better. Let's not plant trees randomly, without understanding the importance of the local ecosystem. Planting trees in a grassland endangers the ecosystem. Instead, we need to understand the local situation and then plant natives to the respective area.

Trees are part of our natural heritage. So when we choose plantation drives, we need to do it in places that need trees, and that these trees must add value and support the existing biodiversity.



AMBREENA J. KHAN

WRITER, MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE,
CONTENT CREATOR

Published writer in a leading wellness magazine

Content creator for a leading group of Indian schools

*Junior counsellor/ Mediator at a British based
education counselling service for Indian students*

Face of Dove USA (2017-18)

📷 @reveriesatdawn

✉️ khan.ambreena8@gmail.com



*Ambreena 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 grew up in a conventional household, therefore freedom was always my ultimate goal. Despite having degrees in Economics and Communications, I wasn't sure about what I wanted to do. But instead of supporting me, my family shamed and betrayed me every step of the way. Eager to prove my worth and to find a support system, I made many questionable choices both professionally and personally- These choices eventually unraveled my real goal. Today, I feel privileged and fortunate to be able to live life with purpose and meaning.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I discovered my love for writing at the lowest point in my life. Being broke and nearly homeless after having accomplished myself substantially, made me question everything. As I kept digging deeper, all the repressed trauma of emotional and physical abuse started showing up slowly. So, I decided to deal with it by writing it all down, and to my surprise I started getting recognition for it.

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

I fought with self-doubt all my life, so the only word that sums up this feeling is 'Gratitude'.



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

Since, I work remotely I try to keep a decent work/play balance everyday- starting out with content writing deadlines, that I finish in the first half. The second half is usually a mix of working on my page, journaling, workout/meditation, connecting with the family. It's work in progress.

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

I started my page 2 years ago when we were on the precipice of something remarkable with regards to Mental Health- this will always be my greatest achievement. I didn't need a degree in psychology to raise awareness about something I truly believed in.

Apart from that, I'm extremely proud to be a part of the education sector for the last one year.

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

On a bad day/week when my mind spirals into a dark place, I remind myself of the times when I assumed I couldn't make it and I always did. It's imperative to remember that no feeling or situation remains the same.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Discipline, Boundaries, and Self-Compassion have been real game changers for me.

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

I wish people could judge others less, love themselves more and consciously come together more often to build communities.

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

Finding what you truly love is a process. As you embark on this journey, learn to take pride in the downfalls along with the triumphs. When the pieces of the puzzle come together, every pit stop will make sense.

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 has always been a step in the right direction! It's an honor to be a part of this drive. For long, we have taken our planet for granted and we live to see its repercussions everyday. It's a daily reminder of the fact how collective action has been missing for most part and that's exactly the need of the hour.



TEJASWINI DIVYA NAIK

AUTHOR, FILM-MAKER, ACTIVIST

AUTHOR OF A NATIONAL BESTSELLER

Her debut book, Smokes and Whiskey, topped the Amazon charts in the first two days of its release and was under the top 10 of Amazon's list on the 3rd day of its release, breaking a few records

Invited by the Obama Foundation to meet President Barrack Obama at the 2017 Delhi Town Hall, as an inspiring young leader of India.

Ran four major campaigns and won all four

Invited twice by 94.3 Radio One Pune, first as their Special Guest, then as the 1st SuperWoman from Pune under their Radio One SuperWoman Campaign

Worked as Social Media and Outreach Head for the United Nations Security General candidate for 2021 - Arora Akanksha

📷 @tejaswinidivyanaiik

✉️ tejaswininaik27@gmail.com



Tejaswini 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?

Since I've been a child, I've had a penchant for writing, and my parents always encouraged me to write, and to be myself, and never stopped me from expressing myself. I guess, that helped with my path leading me up to film-making and eventually, to being a writer and an author. It's been an interesting ride in this crazy roller-coaster life of mine, but I guess, getting derailed is a part everyone has to face. What matters the most is how you get yourself back on the track and how you don't give up and keep going, and that I guess, has been the most important part of my journey.

There have been amazing and some not so amazing projects I have been a part of, where I met some amazing and not so amazing people. But they all teach you and give you great experiences to look back and laugh and most importantly, learn from. My journey has been great so far, even with the ups and downs, and I am looking forward to what the future holds.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

When they say that everything is planned and things will happen just how they are supposed to happen, trust me, they mean it. Trust me, it's true.



I really wanted to get into Criminal Psychology or also called, Criminology, but life had other plans for me. I got through both of the best colleges in Pune, Fergusson as well as Symbiosis, and in a twist of fate, I got pulled in by the wonders of the Media Industry, and here I am, all these years later, recounting the story of how did I get into this career. I never knew then that I would be successful in this industry, that I would publish my own book that would go on to become a National Bestseller, or become an Activist with 4 major campaigns as success stories. All this couldn't or rather wouldn't have happened probably if I wouldn't have chosen what I did that summer day back in 2009. But it was a small feeling, a very tiny voice that compelled to move forward and go in for Media. Listen to that voice/gut feeling/or whatever you'd like to call it. It'll always guide you and point you towards the right direction.

And honestly, it's not the "HOW's" that make us us, it's the WHAT we did with the HOW that made us who we are and.

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

Honestly, it is a feeling that I can't really describe. It's beyond exhilarating.

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

When I am back home in Pune, it usually starts with cuddles and hugs with my dog, then greeting my parents, sitting and having tea with them, listening to my Hanuman Chalisa on my phone (I listen to it on repeat a couple of times, my day can't start without it), and getting ready for the rest of the day - and every day is as different as they come, there is not exactly a set pattern for every single day. Some days I would be just working on the book, working with my illustrator, or shooting videos and photos of my sister, while other days I would be lazing around (trust me, I love to laze around).

When I am in Mumbai, if it's a normal office day, the day would usually start with me listening to my Hanuman Chalisa on my phone watering my plants, have my tea, get ready, eat breakfast and leave for work. When it's a shoot day, the morning routine would mostly be the same but mostly rushed, as I would have to rush to reach shoot. The once the shoot is over, come back home, freshen up, flop on the bed, sleep. Repeat.

You just have to find a rhythm to manage your work and family life. It's difficult, yes, but sooner or later you kind of find your own pattern and balance. And honestly, everyone has their own ways, so whatever works best for you, seriously.

Also, not to forget your personal life. It is very important to have and take care of your own personal time and personal life. You must find a way to take out time for yourself and pamper yourself. Self care is not selfish.



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

- 1) Of course, the first one that comes to my mind is writing my book and it turning into a National Bestseller within 2/3 days of its release. I honestly did not expect that, but just went ahead with my father's advice of the why, what and who I was publishing the book for – I was doing it for me, myself and I, and not for anyone else, so I wasn't to worry myself with the thoughts of what would people think, because this was all for me. And when you have zero expectations from anyone else, you are usually going to be happier and achievements come in the form of surprises.
- 2) Then of course, the next best thing that I can think of is being invited by the Obama Foundation to meet ex POTUS, Barrack Obama at the Delhi Townhall, for being a young inspiring leader of the country. I remember jumping up and down with joy when I read that mail.
- 3) Being chosen as one of the 5 most inspiring women from India by Times of India for International Women's Day 2016, comes at a close 3rd.
- 4) All of my campaigns that I ran on change.org and the news of winning them. Trust me, there is no other grater feeling in the world than knowing that you made a small difference in this big big world.

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

I just remind myself of this one thing that my dad has taught both me and my sister, since we were very little, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going". I close my eyes, and listen to this voice saying that, and then remember this one small family chant/motto that we have and it for sure brightens up my day and brings a smile on my face. And of course, not to forget one of the most important life lessons that my mother has taught us, "you do you, you live your own life, don't care about what others are saying, as karma will take it's own course and everyone will get what they deserve".

What also helps, is knowing the fact that I have learnt and repeatedly told myself, that the night will always end, bringing with it the warm rays of a sun. Even on a rainy day, even when we can't see it, the sun will always rise and it will always shine bright. We just need for the clouds to part through to watch it shine through.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

There are a few of them that I believe in and follow, but here are the three most important ones that I feel I must share with you –

- i) Do unto others as you would have them do to you.
- ii) What goes around comes right back around.
- iii) We accept the love we think we deserve.



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

To begin with, the climate, of course. We can all see the devastating effects of not taking care of Mother Nature in time, and now there are volcanoes, and flooding and ice caps melting, and coral reefs dying and forest fires and thousands upon thousands of wildlife and humans perishing due to it. Make safety of women a priority and make sure any and every person committing heinous crimes not just against women, but any human being or animal gets the punishment they deserve.

Make a system to catch hold of the people who abandon their pets, and punish them severely. And probably introduce a strict law against such horrible people, and make them live by example, I guess.

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

Be yourself, don't change for anyone and don't let anyone change the way you are, or who you are. The best way to win the world is by being yourself, the best way to win at life is by being yourself, the best way to piss your haters off is by being yourself.

Yes, don't shy away from bettering yourself and learning and understanding and flourishing and progressing, but don't ever let go of who you are.

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 great about this to be honest.

Its definitely a great step forward and an excellent but definitely not the only solution to better what Global Warming and Climate Change have left behind in their wake.

What I would personally love to share with people is that please do your bit, take part and make sure everyone you know is actively involved in saving whatever is left of our home and this great planet.

Plant trees, recycle, reuse, stop using plastic, stop littering around, stop littering the oceans to begin with. If each and every single one of us can take care of these things, and try and take a small step in bettering the world, maybe one day, it would be back to its natural state and we won't have to be fighting to save the ice caps or coral reefs or.. well, you get the point, don't you?



DIMPS SANGHANI

BUSINESS ENTREPRENEUR, CELEBRITY
HAIR ARTIST, AYURVEDA HAIR SPA EXPERT
TIARA ORGANIC HAIR & BEAUTY SALON, LONDON

CELEBRITY HAIRSTYLIST, HAIR CARE EXPERT

Beffta Hairstylist Award 2014

Charles Worthington Hair Winner 2015

UK Ambassador for Magic Bus Charity

Mrs England 2018

Mrs Universe Charity woman 2019

 @dimpssanghani  dimps103@yahoo.com



*Dimps 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 story is very filmy, it sounds too good to be true to be a mother of two teenager kids 14 & 15 yrs and be the international beauty queen and also run the Tiara Organic Hair & beauty Salon in Chelsea, King's Road. Iconic King's Road, Chelsea is known for all the royal family members to visit, it's a dream come true opportunity for a female entrepreneur like me to be opening a salon in London's most prestigious King's Road.

I came to London at 20 yrs , got married in India, Hyderabad, and moved in with my husband at early age, I just came of university he is the first guy I saw and said YES! I HAD big infinite DREAMS and ambitions. Had no idea where to start, like every other girl in India, I wanted to run away to Bollywood. But my destiny had something else for me. At age of 18, I enrolled in MISS country club for fun, but I ended wining the crown, walking on ramp was super Fun! So here I did it again and another pageant also won Miss Hyderabad as Runner up in 2000. Life had just begun and I was on top of the world. Calls were banging on from Bombay and everywhere from the newspaper, but my granddad did not wanted me to join films, then I drop the idea and concentrated back on studies.

So once again I won the Mrs. England Universe 2018 title and it was Unbelievable and now the journey was getting more interesting and challenging, and I was being sent to MRS Universe Pageant to compete with 90 countries and representing England This time.



At this stage I felt the beauty world is inside me, either you achieve it at Miss or Mrs it doesn't matter. What matters is you! your dreams, your goals, we live in a world of 7 billion people and every individual has lots of choices & possibilities. You fall everyday but keep standing again and walking again. that is most imp!

So coming back home to UK with title of Mrs Universe Charity Women !! this had opened tons of doors for me. Charity work and serving in my community and society has always given a peace and joy that is unexplainable. I had started charity work since 2008 and that gave me a break in Bollywood UK Makeup industry. I'm certain that it is possible to achieve a good, positive and empowered environment for women and children to be able to learn, thrive, and express themselves successfully. Along with the personal dream, I have the dream for the nation and to take the world with me.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

So after coming to London, life was very different, having no friends and family was super tough, but slowly I settled in here, I struggled for so many years, to finding the right career path, changed few different professions, and finally while working in accountants office for 2 years, a friend told me that Dimp you are wasting your time here, you are very talented and artistic and peoples person, this work is too boring for you, you are time passing here??, so I got shocked and I was upset and lost. And I was expecting a baby at the same time! Was too nervous to be the mother and also was totally confused about the career options. Then I thought about studying hairdressing, and felt that god gave me an opportunity to study hairdressing and try something different. So I enrolled in 4 years of hairdressing course and I had a baby, use to go to college to study in the evening time and juggled the babies and hair courses side by side. And there on my passion for my creative work started from there on.

I always wanted to work for happiness and passion, I work for what I love to do, I never ran after money, and my passion has surely taken close to success in these years, which I'm very grateful to god. I had won several Awards in the hairdressing Industry and still have plans to train and expand and do international workshops in future. alongside opening few more branches and launching my very own hair growth hair oil and 15 types of hair Spa treatments very soon. me and my whole team is preparing for big launch once we out of corona and can see some clarity in market. I designed completely organic hair and skin care routines & treatments that can help today's youth to follow and use sulphate free and paraben free products.

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. It doesn't matter what your job is - everyone appreciates acknowledgement of the effort they've put into something.

I am very thankful for the award you have presented me, I am very happy to honour that award and I can't even express it in words. Even it improves self-confidence and to achieve success in my career. I will assure you that I will keep working on the same way.



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

I do believe in positivity and energies. And when you intend to do something, you give attention to it and then the manifestation happens automatically! These days, work-life balance can seem like an impossible feat. Technology makes workers accessible around the clock.

I prefer to meditate & exercise, I limit my time-wasting activities, unplug social media for while if I have to, work with clients with 100% focus. Keep checking on my teenage kids one or two message a day to check if all okay with them, you should always do the work that you love to get the right work balance, and most importantly learn to prioritize your day wisely.

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

Miss Hyderabad 2000

Miss Country club 2000

Beffta Hairstylist 2014

Mrs England Universe 2018

Mrs Universe Charity Woman 2019

Female Entrepreneur currently owner of Tiara Organic Chelsea Salon (Known street for Royals of the world)

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

I say Keep Calm & Carry on !!! I stay positive & hopeful all the time. our energies can create the surroundings the way we want.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

I say be simple & kind & not complicated. Money doesn't make you rich, it's your thinking should be rich. The way you think, you become what you feel and how you think. keep moving forward with positive approach towards life. live a balanced life & be supportive towards your family & children, never stop learning and never give up. Be human first beyond anything.

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

Hope, Peace & Kindness



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

I would say go slow but steady.

Keep moving don't give up, learn from real experiences of life.
enjoy your every moment in journey either good or bad embrace it and learn from it.
don't forget to do act of humanity as our next generation follow us as role models.
live consciously of what you say and how you treat others it shows your true character!

So watch your thoughts, they become words.
Watch your words, they become actions.
Watch your actions, they become habits.
Watch your habits, they become Character.

Watch your Character, it becomes Destiny !!!

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 very overwhelmed and grateful to be part of such selfless wonderful project.

Trees are essentially the livestock of humankind and other living organisms. They have unconditionally provided us with food, oxygen, and many other necessities for human sustainability, such as shelter, medicines, tools, and many more. With such rich values and importance, trees still do not get treated properly. They are cut down, eliminating any kind of life around the area.

However, with each passing day, the relevance and importance of planting trees have only increased, during Corona period as we have realised the real value of oxygen! It has to be a combined mission of all mankind to plant more trees in order to save our planet.

yes, tree planting can help in:

Ecological & Environmental significance, Personal & spiritual Value, clean air. wildlife and many more.

I would say to the readers that Go green & environmental projects are extremely important to look at and invest our time in to it as citizens & only together we all can make a difference & change. Every person is an Achiever in their own way, I would say instead of following my footsteps ..let's do what is needed for the world ! love to all !



MANALLII AJMERA

HEAD - CORPORATE COMMUNICATION
INDIAFIRST LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.
(INDIAFIRST LIFE)

BRAND CREATOR, COMMUNICATOR, INFLUENCER

Winner of Emerging Leader in Corp Comm at the 2nd edition of e4m's Women Achiever's Summit and Awards 2021

Awarded the Certificate of Excellence at the 2nd edition of e4m's PR & Corp Comm 40Under40 winner's club

Winner of AdGully's Women Disruptors 2021 Award for Excellence in the Field of Corp Comm (BFSI)

Winner of Super Achiever Award at IndiaFirst Life's Achievers First 20-21 event

📷 @manallii

✉️ Manallii.Ajmera@IndiaFirstLife.com



*Manallii 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?

As an accomplished and enthusiastic communication professional, I've over 19 years of experience across Advertising, E-Learning, Public Relations and Corporate Communications.

As the Head of Corporate Communication for IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life), I am responsible for both External (PR) and Internal Communications of the organisation.

Prior to IndiaFirst Life, I've worked with Kotak Mahindra Bank (AVP - Group Corporate Communication) where I managed corporate communications for Kotak (Life & General) Insurance and Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Limited for over 4.5 years. My other stints include working with some of India's leading PR agencies - Edelman India, Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide, Beehive Communications and Concept PR.

In a journey spanning close to two decades, strong relations with the media and key influencers have enabled me to drive robust brand-building and leadership reputation management.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

The range of experience to which I've been exposed, has been educational, enticing, and developmental over the years. I've always had a passion for words and content writing. When you allow your passion to become your purpose it inadvertently transforms into a successful career.



It all started from being an avid reader and a storyteller. This was further fueled in college when I pursued a degree in advertising and quickly realized my knack for content and strategy. That was a crucial moment, which cemented my future in the media & communications industry.

From my humble beginning as an intern in a PR Agency, to being a part of the E-learning industry and again moving back and eventually settling in the Corporate world, my passion for wordsmithing continues to fuel my career path.

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

I am delighted to be recognised among the top 99 Achievers of India. Feels amazing!

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

My day usually starts with a nice hot cup of chai followed by some light exercise and healthy breakfast before I dive into work for the day.

In the current WFH environment, I follow a disciplined schedule while accomplishing my tasks for the day. With work-life balance I've experienced that striking the right balance between passion and processes is the key to success and a professionally and personally balanced life. This belief along with the support of my family helps me stay synchronised with my responsibilities at both, work, and home.

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

From my humble beginning as an Intern 19 years back to becoming the Head - Corporate Communication at a young age of 38 years, I've come a long way to arrive where I am today.

I have seamlessly transitioned, adapted and evolved from Advertising to E-Learning to PR to Corporate Communications while continuing to build brands and manage reputations for some elite names in the BFSI space who have appreciated and acknowledged my efforts.

Being recognised by e4m PR & Corp Comm as one of the 40Under40 winners, e4m Emerging Leader in Corporate Communication, and by AdGully as a Women Disruptors for Excellence in the Field of Corp Comm (BFSI) is a testament to the passion I bring to work every day!

As I continue to push myself to be the best that I can be, I am proud of my achievements till date whether it is building brand reputations of Kotak (Life & General) Insurance and Kotak Mahindra Asset Management, and IndiaFirst Life, among others or my personal achievement of being recognised as an efficient corporate communications professional in the industry.



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

I always look inwards for a solution. By regularly tapping into my inner assertiveness, I've been able to continually work toward my goals. This helps me stay focused on the end objective. When faced with career milestones as well as roadblocks, I've been able to gauge my abilities. By acknowledging my strengths and accepting my weaknesses, I've been able to reset and reinvent myself one step at a time. Career roadblocks are an opportunity to reset and reinvent yourself in the professional journey.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Passion, Honesty, and Integrity are my fundamental principles. You need to believe in yourself and put your heart and soul in pursuing your dreams and persevering with passion, honesty, and integrity. Takes you a long way!

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

If I'd a magic wand, I'd use it to –
Eradicate health issues so everyone can enjoy life fully.
Create an inclusive world with equal opportunities to learn, work, and grow.
Address the issues of global warming & climate change and thereby heal nature.

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

Being told that I should define success on my terms is one of the best career advice that I have received, which I turned into a habit. I would like to pass this on to freshers as well as everyone out there. It can be overwhelming and liberating, but success can be fully enjoyed when your work is connected to your purpose. With the correct aptitude and a positive attitude, winners focus on winning! It's always important to remember that we make our own success and our own luck.

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 this is an incredible initiative and I feel honoured to be a part of it. The issue of global warming is real. It therefore becomes our collective responsibility to ensure that the world is a better place when we leave it.

Planting trees is a key jigsaw piece in the larger scheme of things. Initiatives like these inspire our communities and set an example of not only being accountable but also taking necessary actions to make our planet better.

My message to everyone is to do your bit and then do some more. Every act towards saving our planet adds up. Whether it's recycling, saving water, replacing disposable plastics, etc. Make sure you become the change our world needs.



MEGHA BAJAJ

ACTOR, MODEL, DIGITAL CONTENT CREATOR

RED VALENTINO, TOM FORD BEAUTY, KILIAN PARIS,
ST. REGIS HOTELS, MARRIOTT HOTELS, FOUR SEASONS HOTELS
AND RESORTS

ACTOR, MODEL, LUXURY INFLUENCER

Has been a Theatre Artist since the age of 10, got published numerous times in various newspapers and online poetry based forums and websites for her writings

Also has been a Business Manager for a Luxury Hotel Chain

Has been a host and a compère for innumerable live media and corporate events and red carpets

Also been a Brand Ambassador for a renowned Australian Coffee Chain and designed interiors, spaces and occasional furniture pieces on order for private clients and cafes

📷 @meghabajaj ✉ bajajmegha6@gmail.com



*Megha 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 with theatre workshops when I was in 5th grade and held the stage for several years. As a writer I got published in various newspapers and online poetry based forums and websites for my writings. Then I switched to Modelling and Acting. I've also been a host and a compère for innumerable live media and corporate events and red carpets. Then a Business Manager for a Luxury Hotel Chain, a Brand Ambassador for a renowned Australian Coffee Chain, and I've also designed interiors, spaces and occasional furniture pieces on order. And of late I have dedicated my time to evolve as a Digital Content Creator.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

To be honest, it was purely accidental. When Instagram was brand-new I'd post my modelling work on the platform and that gained a lot of followers for me. My sense of style worked in my favour and several brands started reaching out to me wanting to hire me to create content for their products. It was the same as working for print or video adverts, but with the added perks of creative freedom, since here I could be my own director, concept creator, stylist, make up artist and more!



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

Ecstatic! It is truly an honour to be selected to be on this list, to be appreciated for my journey, my hard work and my achievements. It not only motivates me to achieve more but to also use this opportunity and platform to reach out to, influence and inspire any and all lives that I can touch.

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

My work and family are both an equal priority, I make sure I have time to attend to my family while dividing my entire day for work, from responding to calls and emails to working on ongoing campaigns to editing content. Also, I make sure I find the time to kickstart my day with a great workout session.

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

Everything I've done so far! I'm extremely proud that I put in my 100% into any project I decide to do and then excel at it too!

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

I believe each obstacle is a learning curve and that that should never demotivate us or make us defer our plans. Also, life anyways is too valuable to give up on our dreams, so not giving up is the only way to go.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Our actions create our reality and our input determines the output. Hence, do what you do with passion, hard work and integrity.

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

- 1) Make the world a safer place! Make everyone compassionate enough to not cause any person or animal any kind of harm.
- 2) Save our planet. Our planet is on the brink and saving Earth and its environment is of utmost importance at the moment.
- 3) Make everyone happy, content and confident in their own skin!



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

First of all, believe in yourself even if no one else does. Start out with what fuels the passion in you, because only when you do what you WANT to do will you be driven and motivated enough to give it all you've got and be happy doing what you 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 tremendously happy to be associated with an initiative that plays a major role in saving our planet. Global warming and Climate change are certainly driving the entire planet to a dangerous 'global tipping point', and Planting of trees is only a part- but an absolutely imperative part of the process of saving our planet.

Our well-being solely depends on this planet, it is our home, it gives oxygen, food and water to all living things and it is our responsibility to take care of it. So I implore all of you to take matters into your own hands- literally- and plant more trees, each one teach one remember.



SHUBHANGI SHIVPUJE MITRA

LAWYER, PHILANTHROPIST, BUSINESSWOMAN

INFLUENCER, INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC FIGURE,
MRS UNITED KINGDOM UNIVERSE 2021

Overcoming on life threatening skin cancer and mental health battle she proudly calls her life as reincarnation born died and reborn in same life

PARTNER AND COFOUNDER of LONDON, UK BASED BOUTIQUE LAW FIRM KNOWN AS CHESS SOLICITORS

FOUNDER -charitable trust, MRFA FOUNDATION UK which is working in mental health awareness, women empowerment, child welfare, human trafficking and save mother earth with various international collaborations based in India, Europe and USA

REPRESENTING UNITED KINGDOM in prestigious international beauty pageant known as MRS CLASSIC UNIVERSE IN ESTONIA this year in OCTOBER

Has won many national and international awards /recognition as a businesswoman and her social work in mental health awareness, women empowerment, children welfare activities



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

WINNERS
2020

📷 @stopstigma_breaksilence ✉ shubhangimitra@gmail.com

Q & A

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

I was born in a small village near Latur in Maharashtra, India to middle class parents with Orthodox values. I was poised to live a very typical life. However, I was an Inquisitive child and preferred to delve into the logical perspectives of life. Always asking the question "why". My father's motto of "Knowledge is power", and resilient nurturing by my mother made me the person I am today.

17 Years ago, my marriage brought me to London, after exploring my initial career years in banking and finance industry. I decided to pursue my passion of law which became my full-time profession. 2012 I Started my law firm in partnership, while practicing law my interest grew in social work especially in women and children suffered in domestic violence and abuse, asylum seekers, children welfare. My self-experience in mental health made me realize the stigma that world still suffers in this grieving issue. Mental health awareness became one of the causes. Thus, to work efficiently in different causes I started my Charity KNOWN as MRFA Foundation in London UK. MRFA works with through international collaborations from NGOS, ORGANISATIONS based different parts of world.

I suffered from very rarest kind of skin cancer infection around the same time when I had PTSD. In order to recover from this, it took me three painful skin grafting surgeries, Left with lifelong scars on my hands and parts of my body. But I overcame on these scars which I proudly wear as my medals of honor,



My journey inspired an international beauty pageant "MRS INDIA UK", to make me their brand ambassador by breaking the myth of beauty.

To continue my journey forward in this direction, I will be representing United Kingdom, in a very prestigious international beauty pageant MRS CLASSIC UNIVERSE in Estonia towards the end of this year.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

Surprisingly my career path was never decided. Inspired from my father and strong believer in 'EARN AND LEARN'. I started working at the age of 16, supporting my undergrad studies. During those five years I worked in different streams from education sector, real estate, hospitality management playing different roles.

17 years ago, my marriage brought me to London, after exploring my career in banking and in UK government's regulatory industry while working I was also studying to become a solicitor. Law gradually became my passion, then purpose and thus profession. To pursue my passion, I quit my well-paid job in central London. When I finally decided to get in law career no prior uk legal experience made me take up an unpaid internship in small firm. Within two years from an unpaid intern to owning a small boutique law firm in partnership based in central London made me an entrepreneur.

As an immigration and human rights lawyer, I did come across many people from different parts of world who were victims of many chaotic circumstance's political scenarios, poverty, seeking asylums, that led me to work in rehabilitation of these migrants especially women and children. Small scale social work then led me to take part in various other social problems and awareness like mental health, domestic violence, human trafficking, children's right, education for underprivileged children. I was working with various NGOs and organisations based in the UK and in India. To work more efficiently I started my own Not to profit organisation MRFA Foundation in LONDON.

Believing in life's serendipities I travelled wherever life took me.

Career path of legal professional, women entrepreneur and philanthropist was thus designed for me by my life.

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

humbled and honoured



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

Very important wheels of life family and work.

Time management is the key. Not leaving any work for last minute.

One habit I live is couple of hours before going to bed switching of mobiles. Self-Introspection I analyse my whole day how I have spent, the outcomes of my actions, how can I be more efficient and be a better version of myself for next day. Weekends and bank holidays are dedicated for family and friends come what May.

Family time is never compromised.

Learn to say no you don't have to be everywhere at all the times, protect your peace and happiness all the times.

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

There are many, but most importantly not giving up on myself even when my life conspired from all angles to give up on me in nearly death experiences.

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

Every problem is born with solution. When you accept that it becomes easy. Sometimes it takes longer but there is nothing in this world if decided can be resolved. Not losing focus, patience and keeping perfect balance of mind and brain is the key. Comparing yourself to your best possible version will help you to improve and focus on the path to success.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Success is defined differently for different people. For me Success should never be measured in what "I" have achieved, success should be with oneself how many lives you have changed or have become a reason for their BETTERMENT.

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

Wipe out Discrimination between men and women from this world.

Every child gets basic education , food , shelter, healthcare and safe childhood

One single cure to all the deadly diseases existing or forthcoming.



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

You can either Complain about your life and how miserable your life is or Be optimistic and do your best while sustaining a strong attitude.

Embracing challenges and new opportunities is a big part of any success.

Nothing is secure or safe in life corona has taught us that.

You'll always face smaller and bigger difficulties. And that's okay. It's even awesome because these are the situations that help us grow into our best versions.

The most successful people are those who take on challenges and give their best despite uncertainty.

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?

Biggest tree plantation drive in India, It is very remarkable project and I am very proud to part of it.

I strongly believe, follow and encourage others to reuse, reduce and recycle.

I was born in a village in Latur district part of Marathwada in Maharashtra India. Marathwada is one of the seriously affected area in India in terms of droughts, dry dams, no rainfall. Having seen these problems from childhood, my charity MRFA also promotes and works extensively in a cause Save mother earth. We will be encouraging people to plant more trees, save water through various awareness programs and onsite projects through collaborations.

MY MESSAGE TO THE READERS : Global warming is very serious issue and cannot be controlled by one person or mitigated overnight. The road towards that transition includes daily decisions within your reach – like driving and flying less, walk or cycle wherever possible, use electric car if need to drive, use public transport, switching to a 'green' energy provider and changing what you eat and buy.



DR. SWATI VISHAL JAJODIA

CEO, SWATI SPENTOSE PVT LTD

She launched the finished dosage in India that was made available at a cost of Rs.5500 versus the market dominant American alternative which came at Rs.70,000/- per month

GIBS 2020 (Global Interstitial Cystitis Bladder Pain Syndrome) annual meeting under the aegis of the Urological Society of India was the biggest example of its achievement which witnessed the involvement of over 500 delegates from 60 countries across the globe

Her factory unit in Vapi ranks No.1 in environmental compliance out of the 725 units present there

 @swativjajodia

 swatiespentose.com



Swati 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 born into a traditional marwari family, middle of the three daughters our parents and grandparents nurtured us liberally with the best education and freedom to pursue our dreams. I started working in my father's textile business at the age of 15. On being married into a pharma family I was drawn to it like fish is to water. Vishal and myself we are blessed with 2 beautiful children Aadya and Advait who are in pursuit of realising their dreams.. It has been a fulfilling journey so far, being able to impact so many lives positively has been immensely gratifying.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I got married at the young age of 21 into a pharmaceutical family. Being exposed to this world of healing really inspired and motivated me to join it and after 27 years I do feel it was the right decision.

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

I am honored to be recognized by The Indian Achievers Club and share my story encouraging and inspiring millions. May my experience motivate people to persist against all odds and realize their dreams to live meaningful lives.



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

My day begins at 6 am with a cup of tea and then vigorous exercise at the gym followed by prayers. By 10 sharp I am at my desk until 6 pm, my commute time to and fro is meant for social calls and household errands. My family is the wind beneath my wings, and I spend quality time with them post work. Weekends are usually at our Alibaug home with loved ones and for social service commitments.

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

I can certainly say I'm filled with gratitude for being given the opportunity to bring relief to the of IC patients who had been suffering silently for years together, with frequent (40-50 times), painful urination, with bleeding, often suicidal.

Our medicine Comfora regenerates the bladder lining thereby letting them live a painfree life.

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

As an entrepreneur I believe I am an eternal optimist. I maintain a positive stance in the most difficult situation. Success achieved by overcoming difficult hurdles will always be more fulfilling and long-lasting, than the one achieved easily.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Discipline, health (exercise, diet, sleep, positive thinking), value time the most as it is the only asset constantly diminishing. mainly self-care. To overcome stressful situations and challenges, one must be mentally and physically healthy.

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

- 1) Both men and women are given a choice on who gives birth to their child.
- 2) Women are treated with dignity and given equal education opportunities to grow in their respective careers.
- 3) Heal all with deformities, physical and mental.

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

Never be disappointed when you fail or exuberant with success. Keep persisting in your endeavors. Hard work always pays.



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 are responsible for our environment. Planting trees boosts positive change in the weather, increasing oxygen, reducing carbon dioxide, helps retain natural habitats, invigorates us, and minimizes stress. We must preserve trees to maintain our planet's equilibrium. Our world depends on it.

Set a personal goal to serve the universe – plant trees or support organizations that do. The gift of a tree will last a lifetime and benefit the planet




DISHA SINGH

FOUNDER & CEO

ZOUK

ENTREPRENEUR & MARKETER

 @dhrishtikon

 dishaine@zouk.co



*Disha 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 from IIMA, post which I worked with a tech startup for a year before starting our brand Zouk. Today at Zouk, we have 60,000+ happy customers & are growing to become the next iconic lifestyle from India.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

During my MBA course, I visited Kutch as part of my course and saw high craftsmanship products made by local artisans and noticed the very little functionality for modern use cases. This is when I witnessed my eureka moment for Zouk where I decided to offer stylish & functional products with the essence of India.

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

It feels great to be honoured & recognized for all the hard work I have put in to build Zouk.



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

I start my day with an hour of yoga/exercise & a hearty breakfast. I start my work by reviewing my calendar and planning for the day ahead. I am done with my work post dinner and retire for the day with an hour of reading. I keep my Sunday strictly for family & recouping from the work week.

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

My greatest achievement is building Zouk to where it is today, from a single person stitch unit to a 100+ production team, Zouk has come a long way. We have expanded our presence across India and have big plans for the future.

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

Internal drive is the most important thing in anyone's journey. For me, Zouk is my life's work and that keeps me going in tough times.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Persistence, Perseverance & Hard work

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

I don't believe in magic, I think every human has the power to bring real change in this world.

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

Ask for help, that is the best help you can do for yourself when starting 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 feels great to be part of something which in my view is a very noble cause. Steps like these will surely lead us towards making our planet cleaner and better for our future generations.



KAVITA IYER

BUSINESS & LIFE COACH

AHAANA SOLUTIONS & MY LOGISTICS GURUKUL

COACHING & MENTORING, THOUGHT
PROVOKER, POTENTIAL MAXIMISER

📷 @ksiyer87

✉️ ksiyerr87@yahoo.com



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

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

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

Having got selected amongst millions to the top 99 Achievers of India, How does it feel? Firstly, it is very reassuring and inspiring to be recognised for my work so far. I feel inspired to continue in my effort to make a difference in the lives of as many people as I can. And then, it makes me feel good and happy as well as brings credibility to my work.

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

As I am wanting to pursue two new projects, I am busy in creating Business plans for both and also doing the research on the viability of these projects. One has been born out of a personal tragedy in wanting to create a world class facility for above 50 age group and the other to pursue my personal passion of Organic Farming. Currently empty nested, managing work and life is very easy.

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

Every entrepreneur who grew due to my humble involvement and contribution. Every young adult who got into his/her college of choice or job coveted. Leaving positive memories and getting the title of "Guru-Ma" unanimously across all companies I have trained with and bringing up two young men who are positively contributing to society.



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

On a humorous note, I get up from my chair, change and come back as if it's a new day at work or in life. On another, step back. If possible, do something else and come back to the challenge. And I have always worked on the solution not the problem.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Hard work, hard work, hard work.

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

Poverty, Environment change, greed.

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

There are no quick fixes. Even an idea needs to be backed with hard work to become a reality and create success. Either you succeed or you learn. Learn how to deal with failures. That's the core of the toughest people.

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 an honour. The simplest and biggest impact is made by planting trees. Whether it be their contribution to the climate restoration, encouraging wildlife and ecology to flourish, reducing soil erosions and disasters, helping us breathe fresher air or providing shelter, this renewable source of energy is immeasurable. It is our responsibility to restore our planet and leave a better one for the future generations.

About following in someone's footsteps: Learn from others, surely. But do what you are passionate about and would love to do for the next 10 years of your life at least. Enjoy your journey.



ROSHANI SHENAZZ NADIRSHAH

SPIRITUAL SOUL-DOCTOR, HAPPINESS/WELLBEING COACH,
INTERNATIONALLY AWARDED AUTHOR, & SPEAKER
WHOLEISTIC WELLBEING PVT. LTD. & MEHER ROSHANI FOUNDATION

*SPIRITUAL WELLBEING, HOLISTIC GUIDANCE AND
HEALING & SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR*

Accredited by the International Practitioners of Holistic Medicine
U.K. as a Holistic Therapist and Training Provider

Successfully founded Meher Roshani Foundation to empower
humanity and Wholeistic Wellbeing Pvt. Ltd. for Spiritual
Empowerment for the World

Was invited as an Inspirational Keynote Speaker on Spiritual
Development and Inspirational Social Entrepreneurship as a part of
the ECOSOC Round Table at the XIVth International CIFA Forum
held in Monaco, France, in May 2016. (CIFA - Convention of
Independent Financial Advisors is a Non- Governmental
Organization in consultative status with ECOSOC - the Economic
and Social Council of the United Nations)

📷 @roshanishenazz ✉ info@roshanishenazz.com



*Roshani 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?

At the peak of my dynamic career of 23 years in media and films, where I worked for some of the biggest names in TV and the Indian Film Industry, I got interrupted by an unfortunate prolonged illness during 2005-2006. This got compounded by sheer medical negligence, which got me temporarily immobilized waist downwards. Financially broke and living with my then 85 years old Father, I later sold my home to repay the humongous 72 lacs of medical debts plus the loan on my cherished home. Many other closures of Life followed after that. I was below ground zero - financially, emotionally, physically and almost felt like a rising Phoenix from the ashes because all this while what stayed with me was implicit faith, fortitude, courage, and determination to rise above it all.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

In the second innings of my purposeful Life, during the recovery from my illness in 2006, interactions with two faith healers and later an Angel book from a friend and the Charles Virtue Angel workshop in 2010, made me more cognizant of the intervention of the powerful beings called Angels and Archangels, in human lives. Trusting my intuition despite financial obstacles, I quit my media dream job to embark on my spiritual journey to enthuse people to unveil their divine potential and recognize the same in others. Transformation followed and continues with my work inspiring many lives across the Globe. My mission is to empower and inspire as many souls worldwide to discover their true selves, passions, life purpose, divinity, and that of others...



..This ultimately propels them to serve as Universal Citizens by being the best version of who they can truly be while igniting the inner Light of many along the way, thus creating a Happy Planet.

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

I am truly and deeply humbled and honoured to be among the 99 Achievers of India while giving Gratitude to God for making it all happen. My Life every breath is indebted to the divine guidance that I live.

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

I genuinely believe there is no time management. There is only priority management. All the most prominent leaders, scientists, artists, entrepreneurs have the same 24 hours. What we do with those 24 hours is the balance. I don't bifurcate stringent hours for things but rather let them flow as per priority. I divide my work and play so that there is no difference because my work itself brings me the joy of my inner passion and play to help others and see their transformations. With thousands of things on my plate, I am thankful that I can do more than I could ever imagine. I run over 28 groups on What's App, Mentor all my old workshop Participants and Clients, conduct several pro bono sessions for clients, groups and friends, daily churn out channelled messages, videos and posts and yet have time for my spiritual practices, meditation, my soulful painting, colouring, writing, gardening, calling and meeting loved ones, and watching OTT series when I want to.

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

Several of them, but the most significant life achievement that God has gifted me with was helping me never lose my sanity and going down a negative spiral when all was broken and torn. It is easy to slip into victimhood and pessimism even if you come out from death and total wipe-out in Life. But Grace helped me to bounce back to a far more integrated and purposeful life, even when I did not know from where the next penny would come in to take care of me, my Father and our lives. That sane and conviction driven comeback is what I consider my prime achievement.

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

My 2nd birth after touching death taught me many things. Most importantly, it taught me true surrender, which means doing your best and leaving the rest in the able hands of that Power above. It taught me faith is not when all is hunky-dory, but faith is when nothing is going your way and instead going the total opposite.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

To be faithful to me and the God within me. I can fool the world but not God and not my soul. The biggest benefact.

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

- Ensure basic needs of food, shelter, clothes, medical and education are accessible easily by everyone.
- Magically transform everyone's hearts to ONLY Love and live in Oneness with one another.
- Have no Visas for travel because we would consider ourselves one big family who can travel to whichever home we want on our Mother Earth without fear.

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

This is my heartfelt share and not a piece of advice – To know that however talented, genius, educated or intelligent you may be, you cannot succeed without this One key ingredient called Perseverance. That is the only difference between someone who wins and someone who loses. Ones who persevere grow – now or later for sure. Once you have this, the other is to operate in your complete humaneness through all you think, speak and do. Then you can be termed as a truly successful Human Being.

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 immensely honoured to be a part of the Biggest Plantation Drive in India and grateful to get this opportunity to contribute to my Mother Earth.

We are the reflection of our Mother Earth – We are 70% Water, just like Her. She has Trees; We have Lungs. She has Rivers and Oceans; We have the Bloodstream and so on and forth. Taking care of the Planet is not selfless work; it's selfish at the bottom of it because taking care of This Mother indirectly takes care of ourselves and our generations. Planting Trees is a grand gesture, and we must encourage it right from school life. Let there be an encouragement for alternative entrepreneurship like replacing plastics, organic and natural products and Wellness services through financial supports, taxations, etc. Let us conduct awareness programs, free saplings distribution, nature and climate studies; in institutions, societies etc.

Whether they are the Global SDGs or National Programs, it is all driven by the upper pyramid of Life, and the humans at the grassroot never feel the Oneness of being part of the large vision. We need to give and shoulder the responsibility to every human being. Make them feel deeply that they have that authority and responsibility to ensure a way of Life that enhances the entire world. Make them feel recognized, acknowledged and encouraged in different ways through local bodies.

Let us make this the Quote our ethos for the World Climate Change that – "We have not inherited this Planet from our Ancestors, but borrowed it from our Children." And when something is borrowed, you return it with Interest, which is much more than the principal source.



GAYATRI PANDEY

CO-FOUNDER

REYOD

MARKETER, STORY-TELLER, VISIONARY

REPRESENTED INDIA AS CADET AMBASSADOR IN
SRI LANKA AS PART OF NCC INDIA

📷 @pandeygayatri_ ✉️ pandeygayatri0308@gmail.com



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

WINNERS
2021

Q & A

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

I was born & brought up in Allahabad(now Prayagraj). I did my graduation from Allahabad University and my masters from IMT Ghaziabad/Dubai. After doing my MBA, I started my Corporate journey in Dubai and after 3 years resigned from my 9-5 job to work 24*7.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I have always been passionate about Marketing. With Marketing agency, I beleived I could help organizations reach their audience and share their story and journey.

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

It's a great honour and motivation to be part of it.



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

My family is really supportive and understanding, they actually motivate me to focus on my work and stand with me in all problems. I don't feel like I have to make special efforts to balance family and work.

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

I celebrate myself for showing up everyday.

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

I keep reminding myself something better is in store for me and when I am feeling low, I tell myself that whatever happened was for a reason and is preparing me for the best.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

My success mantra is self-motivation, commitment, people management and surrounding myself with like minded people.

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

Only one thing, I would want people to be more mindful of nature and be more conscious of their consumption and carbon footprint.

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

Just 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 to conserve and protect our environment and tree plantation is significant to work towards Global warming and climate change. We have to leave this earth a better place for our future generations and we can do that by being part of every small/big change.



BENAIFER JIMMY MIRZA

INDEPENDENT LIFESTYLE WRITER, CONTENT
DEVELOPER, & VOICE ARTISTE

LIFESTYLE WRITER , VOICE ARTISTE

*WON THE 'BEST FEMALE ARTISTE - ENGLISH CORPORATE
AV' AWARD AT INDIA VOICE FEST 2019*

*WON THE 'BEST FEMALE ARTISTE - ENGLISH AUDIOBOOKS'
AWARD AT INDIA VOICE FEST 2020*

*FEATURED IN MID-DAY NEWSPAPER FOR MY VOICE
ACTING PROWESS* [🔗](#)

*APPOINTED AS PR AND MEDIA HEAD OF SKÅL
INTERNATIONAL MUMBAI SOUTH (SIMS 732)*

[@benaifermirza](#)

[✉️ benaifer.mirza@gmail.com](mailto:benaifer.mirza@gmail.com)



*Benaifer 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?

Fresh out of college, I started my career at Intelenet as a Customer Service Executive in 2004. Got too comfortable there, and then finally decided to quit. I then joined a new media start-up that was into gaming and technology websites. But after more than two years of being there, I realised that these gaming and technology weren't my areas of interest or expertise. I then joined Spenta Multimedia in 2009, where I worked was on the editorial board of some prestigious lifestyle magazines, such as HAIR, HDFC Imperia, etc. In terms of writing, I found my calling there!

In 2011, I quit Spenta Multimedia and did a weekend voice over workshop with veteran theatre actor and voice artiste, Pathy Aiyar, at Sound and Vision India. The moment I recorded my demo, I fell in love with the mic! I've been freelancing as a writer and voice artiste since 2011. Apart from writing for publications, such as the NCPA's ON Stage, Mid-day, Marwar, HDFC Imperia, etc., and doing voice overs, I have also developed the website content for some prestigious brands, such including as India Circus, Star India Network and Tata Global Beverages, to name a few. As a voice artiste, I've narrated more than 40 audio books, done hundreds of short stories, corporate AVs, digital ads, etc., for some of the biggest Indian and international brands.

In addition to this, I also work with the travel industry in a small way. I work with Inspiration Unlimited as a Consultant. I've organised familiarisation trips to destinations, such as Rwanda and Cyprus, for the company. I've also worked with them for trade fairs and roadshows...



In August 2021, I was appointed as the PR and Media Head of Skål International Mumbai South (SIMS 732). This is another exciting opportunity, where I'm not only handling the organisation's PR and Media activities, but am also meeting some extremely inspiring and influential people from the travel industry & various walks of life.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

Writing is something that excited me since childhood. It's rather funny, but in school, English was the only subject in which I topped my class, while I was just scraping through the rest. So, studying English Literature and pursuing a career around writing was an obvious and automatic choice. Regarding voice overs, well, I wanted to pursue something that would break the monotony of having just one career. And that is how and why I attended a weekend workshop, and then pursued the career further.

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

I'm extremely honoured and humbled by this recognition. Just feels like I've probably done something right in my professional journey!

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

A freelancer, especially an independent creative professional, never has a typical day, I'd say. There are weekdays that could be easy and relaxed, and then I have super-busy weekends when I'm recording or writing back-to-back. It is this erratic nature of my career that I love. The unpredictability and adrenaline rush! But I do try to squeeze in some yoga, spend time with the family and friends, watch some movies and web-series, write musings, etc. whenever possible.

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

A happy client is often an artiste's greatest achievement. Being complimented after a good recording session, receiving that message from an aspiring artiste on social media about how they follow you and look up to you, all these are such humbling experiences. When my late dad sent me a text saying - Great Rendition - that made me so happy. These are the little, everyday joys that an artiste experiences and it keeps us going. Apart from that, of course, being featured in Mid-day, then being awarded the 'Best Female Artiste - English Corporate AV' Award at India Voice Fest 2019 and then the 'Best Female Artiste - English AudioBooks' Award at India Voice Fest 2020 were extremely encouraging achievements.

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

My professional journey, especially my voicing career, has been anything but smooth. It has been a journey that has been shaped by three Ps - Passion, Patience, and Perseverance. And that is exactly what I keep in mind even after ten years of freelancing. Winter always turns to Spring, is a very famous Buddhist line. And, I truly believe in it. No dark night is going to last forever. Also, when work is slow, I try to teach myself some new skill, art, or, technology to keep myself going.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

As I mentioned, my journey has been about the three Ps of Passion, Patience, and Perseverance. Apart from that, I consciously try to remain as grounded and humble as possible. Respect every individual, from the CEO to the guy who serves you chai. Fame and power are fleeting, which is why it is so important to remain rooted.

Also, I think the one thing that I would want to share with anyone entering the world of media is that it's not all about glamour, fame, and money. There's a lot of hard work involved. So, as a lifestyle writer, on one hand, while we attend fashion weeks and get the opportunity to travel, on the other, we also have innumerable sleepless nights while working on articles, etc. Same goes with the world of voicing when you're recording back-to-back.

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

Keeping the current times in mind, I would first and foremost remove the Corona virus from every little inch of this earth. Second, I wouldn't want any single child or person to sleep hungry. And, lastly and but most importantly, I would want each and every child to receive the gift of education, no matter where he or she is, irrespective of their gender or financial status. I truly believe that no gift is bigger than the gift of education.

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

Shortcuts are short lived. When you truly want to follow your passion, please be patient. It can get truly frustrating when things don't work out as planned. But it all eventually does. There's nothing as beautiful as a stubborn heart, right! So, make your heart stubborn-enough to win. And, when I say, "Win", I don't mean in the worldly way, I simply mean, win in your own life and for 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'm extremely happy to be a very, very small part of such a big drive! I often think, what are we leaving for our next generations? But initiatives, such as these, reaffirm my faith in the fact that something right is happening, no matter what. Global warming and climate change are harsh realities, and if we do not work towards some hardcore sustainable development goals today, then our tomorrow is rather bleak. But with beautiful initiatives, such as the plantation drive, I'm sure that tomorrow will be a better day!



NEETI SAVLA NANDU

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT COACH
EMPOWER YOU

*BUSINESS & MINDSET COACH, TRAINER & FACILITATOR,
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT EXPERT*

She was invited by Saregama to be a special guest expert coach on their youtube channel with 21 million subscribers to share 20-30 minutes life coaching videos and audio podcasts for saregama caravan's listeners and viewers [🔗](#)

She has published as an expert coach in an article in Sheen Magazine which is a women's empowerment magazine with 141,000 followers

I was invited for an podcast to share my journey as an entrepreneur and coach as a part of an expert coaches panel: by A Start Up community "Apna Time Aayega" to inspire people to become entrepreneurs especially women [🔗](#)

She was invited by podcaster Cherian Wilson to share my growth as a women leader and business coach on her podcast and international video series [🔗](#)

Her Indian women clients have earned a total of 60 lacs+ in their businesses in India in the last financial year, and this wealth is being used to impact others! When women are financially independent, their families change and India changes one family at a time!

[@coachneeti](#)

[✉ coach.neetisavla@gmail.com](mailto:coach.neetisavla@gmail.com)



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

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

As a 29 year old coach, I have worked as a mindset and leadership coach and trainer for the last 9 years of my professional career across various roles:

1. Since the age of 20, my first professional role was as a Teach for India Fellow where I was a full time teacher for 65 kids in a school in Dharavi. I coached many students from a Muslim background to continue staying in school, I coached their parents about how to build a thriving home environment for the kids, I coached and trained the school's municipal teachers and principal about how to build a conducive learning space for students.

2. My 2nd professional job was that of a Leadership Coach for 100s of students and teachers for high income schools in Mumbai such as Oberoi International School, where I ran a deep and transformative 14-week long inner leadership program for teenagers. I also was a leadership coach for hundreds of teachers across rural India with Lead Schools.



3. In the last 6 years, I have impacted 2000+ professionals, 50+ women entrepreneurs to transform their lives and business!

4. As a women's business coach - I have helped 50+ women become financially independent, where some of them have been able to:

Transform 100+ companies, 5000+ employees and company cultures with their coaching and training programs

Buy their 1st family car at the age of 28

Support their family income and retired parents

Build a savings account for their children's foreign education

Create a fund to buy their dream home

Support their husband's business growth too

Rebuild their confidence in themselves to succeed

WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOUR WORK THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO GET UP EVERY MORNING?

As a coach who empowers women in business to earn Rs 2 Lacs - Rs 10 lacs+ every month, what motivates me is: seeing them become financially independent. When my clients buy their dream cars, dream homes, and live a life of joy filled with fun, health and family time it fills my heart with joy!

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

As a mindset coach when I help women unlock their true potential by smashing limiting beliefs it is very satisfying.

As an entrepreneur with a small team, it can become challenging to stay energised on a daily basis. Sometimes, coaching can become exhausting because I am connected to people everyday. Therefore, I ensure I take time for my self care practices daily to stay balanced.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

The most interesting thing about me is that I have been a seeker since the age of 17 and I started my quest to find life's great answers in college through spirituality. I have myself had 10+ coaches and spiritual teachers since I was 18 years old. When I tell people to invest in coaching, I also believe in investing in coaches for myself, across all areas of my life. That is why I want every woman and man in the world to have access to the coaches so they can live the life of their dreams.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

In order to succeed as a coach, the foundation is the desire to help and serve people and impact lives. If you are passionate about transforming lives, and leaving behind a legacy of change in the world, coaching is the right career for you.

The skills required for being a successful coach are: 1. Compassionate listening 2. Asking powerful questions 3. Intuition 4. Emotional Intelligence 5. Effective Communication



WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

1. Travel - I have travelled to 20+ countries. I love visiting new cities and towns, meeting people of different cultures of all kinds of people and places.
2. Spirituality and Self Mastery - I am passionate about seeking the truths of life from my spiritual teachers. I love practicing meditation, visualisation, and various modalities of being in touch with my highest self and soul.

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

Coaching as an industry has been experiencing a 6.7% average yearly growth rate globally from 2019 to 2022. It is expected to have a market value of \$20 billion by 2022.

The economy of India and its companies & employees suffered losses in their income due to the pandemic. It has affected the coaching industry in 3 ways:

1. 40-50% of coaches experienced an income and impact reduction in their coaching practice due to reduced revenue of companies and reduced individual and team budgets for human development.
2. 15-20% of coaches experienced an increase in impact and income due to the online coaching possibilities being open and the world becoming borderless.
3. 20-30% of coaches experienced their income and impact being the same.

**FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD?
WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?**

The biggest challenge of working in the coaching industry is that it is unregulated in terms of pricing, skills, certifications and credentials of coaches.

**MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR
READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

If you have an inspiring vision, that sets your soul on fire, chase it with full faith and effort, because the journey of achieving it, is worth it. The world needs courageous people who live their life purpose.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

It is the mission of my company 'Empower You' to empower 1 million women to build and scale their impact driven businesses so we can collectively make the world a better place, for the years to come.



PRERNA WAHI

WRITER, AUTHOR, BLOGGER & INFLUENCER
WWW.PRERNAWAHI.COM

INFLUENCER, BLOGGER & BRAND EVANGELIST

Her www.prernawahi.com where she publishes all my write ups on parenting, relationships, finance and my celebrated 100 word stories giving out social messages

Has won the prestigious Orange Flower Award by Women's Web

Has been selected as top author on Momspresso, Women's Web and Bonobology multiple times

Has contributed to articles that empower working women and talk about D&I initiatives at workplace

Mentors budding writers in my field and believe in growing my write tribe

 @wahiprerna  prernawahi@gmail.com



*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?

I am an Economist by education, Risk analyst by profession and Writer by passion. I quit my MNC job to embrace motherhood & decided to pursue my passion of writing. I own www.prernawahi.com & write for top web portals & corporates in the country. I believe in the power of writing & that I can make a difference through my words. If it motivates even one person my job is done. I seek ideas from everyone around me - from real incidents & actual conversations in my write-ups. I often warn people, I am a writer and anything you say will be used by me.

I write about raising a feminist son, in a gender neutral environment. I support campaigns about spreading awareness on sexual abuse, cyber bullying and equal opportunities for all. I have also been collaborating with corporates & understating research studies on issues of diversity and inclusion, future of work etc.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I became a published author when I was just 16 years when my poem was published in a compilation pan India. I always had the passion to write but could never pursue it with the demands of education and a full time job. Motherhood gave me a chance to revisit my career choices & what was a passion became my profession.



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

I am honoured to be sharing this space with distinguished personalities and pioneers in their field. This recognition is also humbling and is a testament to the power of digital platforms. The right voice can indeed make a difference.

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

While every day is different and bring in adventures of it's own, typically it involves exercise, household chores, professional work, family time and some solitude. I don't believe in the concept of divorcing work from life. Work is a part of life just like other activities. The idea is to integrate them such that personal and professional commitments are fulfilled. I feel one should be 'present in every room', i.e. you give 100% to whatever you are doing at any moment- whether work, spending time with family, doing chores etc. At home, my husband and I are partners and divide our responsibilities. We are also involving our 9 year old son and encouraging him to pick up key life skills.

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

I feel each acknowledgement, win, recognition, award makes me proud. But it is the kind words from my peers and followers that keep me going. The feeling of doing something that has an impact or influences others is an honour.

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

Richard Nixon famously said, "The finest steel has to go through the hottest fire." Challenges are a part of growth and failures are only learning opportunities. I have gone through writer's block on multiple occasions but have always bounced back. Practice makes perfect. I focus on keeping myself physically and mentally fit and spend time ideating or brainstorming with people close to me. I keep myself open to feedback and use that constructively to get better. Lastly, life is too short to be taken very seriously and a few speed bumps along the way should not stop you from realizing your dreams.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

I draw inspiration from everyone around me for my write-ups, especially the two men in my life - one is my weakness (my 9 year old son) and other my strength (husband). I feel I am fortunate to be pursuing a passion and carving a niche for my work in this field. It does not feel like work when you love what you do. Success to me is being better today than what I was yesterday and progress in this journey is a daily achievement. Persistence and Pursuing excellence is always a better option. Success is a natural consequence of it.



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

My general motto in life is to find pleasure in the small moments & little things rather than waiting for the big ones. That helps me stay positive, cheerful & spread joy. So with a magic stick I would like to make people around me more happy, thankful & kind. I wish we could rise above our differences and make the world a better place.

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

It's important to block out the noise once you decide what you want to pursue. You can realign the path you take as you go. Keep it real & your content original. Support your tribe, learn from each other and grow together.

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 privileged to be making a humble contribution for a good cause. The future of our environment is intricately linked to the secure future of humankind and any steps in this direction can only make it better.



ARCHANA VADNERKAR

MODEL, ACTOR, TAROT & ASTROLOGY ENTHUSIAST

*Model, Actor, Tarot, Influencer and Astrology
Enthusiast*

Successful professional model

Actor

Vedic Astrologer

Tarot card Reader

Influencer - Encouraging people to embracing change

📷 @archanavadnerkar
(Artist)

✉ archana.vadnerkar@gmail.com

@archanajayant_v
(Tarot and Astrology)



*Archana 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 believe in having a very strong base and value education the most. My journey started with studying Charter Accountancy (CA) along with Master of Business Administration (MBA) and progressed further into love for Information Technology and having completed Diploma in Advance Software Technology (DAST), it gave me the opportunity to work with world no.1 company General Electrics (GE)- my 1st job in Technology field of corporate sector.

Your calling isn't something that somebody can tell you about. It's what you feel and I felt a very strong inclination towards modelling/ Fashion since my childhood. And I gave it my best when I saw the opportunity and knowing my base (Educational backup) was strong and believing if it was meant to be- it will, God willing.

Acting jobs poured in from well reputed and renowned production houses. Also having had the opportunity to do theater with amazingly talented artists. I enjoy this craft and it is satisfying to portray a character and bring it to life.

Astrology and Tarot is a divine spiritual science and this esoteric knowledge is something I have been blessed and bestowed upon with (It's definitely a blessing I carry from my past life) I embraced these divination methods to understand life and the mystical ways of how Universe functions. It gives me the pleasure to be able to help others gain clarity and insight through Vedic Astrological Predictions. To choose better and know what events are going to unfold. Astrology is Soul satisfying and I love studying the positions and movements of the stars and planets and the way they affect us humans and events.

"Wherever you are in your journey, remember to enjoy and have gratitude for it".



HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

It was my Childhood dream to become a professional Model and I was blessed to have the opportunity to meet and work with the best in the Fashion Industry.

With their guidance and expertise whilst working with them, I groomed myself.

I am forever grateful to Lubna Adams, Vahbiz Mehta, late. Viveka Babajee and all the top-notch Designers. To mention a few: Vikram Phadnis, Neeta Lulla, Priya Kataria Puri , Rocky S. I have immense gratitude for the opportunities they have always bestowed me with.

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

I AM ELATED and thrilled to be associating with visionaries whose intent is to contribute by giving it back to the society. Where efforts of women entrepreneurs are recognized and having a platform where one can voice their achievements and their journey in front of the world. What a great way to encourage the new generation and get to be featured alongside with the best, creative and above all self-made fabulous people.

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

Balance between heart and mind is the key. Knowledge is for the mind and feeling from heart for the family. I wake up looking forward to the day as it's a blessing to be alive. I don't plan too much. I Organise my day and work with my intent to create and live with Joy. Being able to cherish and do what I love for a living. Appreciating and acknowledging that every day of my life.

I Love morning walks with my pet Dog and engage with nature. I do transcendental meditation that I practice under my Sister Gayatri Soni's guidance. She has had the opportunity to learn and practice it from Maharishi Veda Vigyan Mahavidyalaya since her junior college days.

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

Living life on your own terms is in itself an achievement and every human who has lived their life creating and being a visionary for the generation of the present and the future is a great achievement to witness and be amongst them, whether it is in my professional or personal life. Isn't it??

I feel proud to be on the list of The Indian Achievers Club's 99 Women Achievers of India, it's an achievement I will always cherish. Thank you.

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

There is nothing like smooth or easy, when you have your goals set on higher planes. It's about making it worth every moment. Very importantly taking care of myself and respecting my environment. Staying bright, engaged, and fit I manage my work (Minding my own business) and live to my full potential. It helps to read good books and listen to the interviews of achievers. Assuring myself that when the going gets tough the tough get going. You have to remember, the one person who will never let you down or give up on you is YOU.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Minding my own business, Integrity and maintaining my Values and ethics.
Integrity is the essence of everything successful – R. Buckminster Fuller
Never look for temporary fix or shortcuts.

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

Education: Every person rich to poor needs education

Food: No body should have to stay hungry.

Environment: Without protecting and taking care of our environment we're putting so many lives at danger such as animals, plants and crops, and even our own.

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

No matter who you are, what you do, or how far you think you have to go, every one of us is born with a purpose. Tapping into and connecting to that force greater than yourself and understanding your calling is the way to be and success assured.

Live with integrity and have patience to see your life purpose unfold.

Astrology can bring to light what lies at the heart of you – what your life's purpose or work is really about, not simply how you choose to earn a living.

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 born and brought up in a place where trees have been an integral part of our upbringing and everybody's life in abundance. I understand and come from the culture where trees are vital to promote health and social well-being. It feels fantastic to be a part of the Biggest Tree Plantation Drive in India. As I do believe trees can definitely help us slow climate change. Be mindful and choose eco-friendly and sustainable products and way of life.



EKTA PUNJABI

EDUCATIONIST
TEACHING IN AN IB SCHOOL

EDUCATIONIST, INNOVATIVE, RESOURCEFUL

IGCSE World Topper in Business Studies

IGCSE India Topper in Business Studies

AS Level World topper in Business Studies

A level World Topper in Business Studies

*Guided student on a business plan that got a \$1000
funding from Harvard*

📷 @ektapunjabi24 ✉️ ekta.punjabi@gmail.com



*Ekta 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 teaching while I was in school and then ditched the corporate desk job offer the day I got the teaching opportunity. I have taught ICSE, SSC, IGCSE, A level and IBDP Board and currently teaching the Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) IGCSE and A Level along with the International Baccalaureate (IB) Business Studies and Business Management.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I started off teaching while I was yet in school and then I ditched the corporate offer for a teaching job and ever since have been the happiest.

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

It feels ecstatic knowing that the work done by us teachers is yet acknowledged and recognized. I'm extremely grateful for the people who have helped shape my career, the critics, the support and above all my family and the Lord. Hoping we educationist can continue guide our students to become world class leaders.



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

My typical day starts at 6am in the morning by playing with my dog and then starting classes by 7am and in classes till 8pm, post that a short walk and dinner.

Work life balance is a little difficult so weekdays are generally packed but weekends I ensure I spend time with family and friends, do short trips and also cater to some students in need of any help.

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

My students being awarded India and World Toppers in Business Studies (CAIE) Cambridge Assessment International Education and my student being granted a \$1000 funding from Harvard for his social enterprise after us planning his business plan. These are few of the achievements I am grateful for.

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

Just thinking of how the young learners and their parents have put their trust and faith in you to ensure their child do well in life makes me want to push myself when things get difficult.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Character is more important than reputation, love more - not just people and things but yourself too and always be grateful for everything.

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

Illiteracy levels (public education), approach towards mental health, animal cruelty.

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

Find something that interests you and give your best. Things always fall into place when your heart and mind are in sync.

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 delighted to be a part of this and glad that such an initiative is taken. Yes, with the growing demands of humans and urban developments it's extremely important for us to ensure sustainable methods and creation of more oxygen and trees have the ability to take in Carbon dioxide and reduce warming and additional heat.



KOMAL PARAKH

ENTREPRENEUR
UPCYCLE CORPS.

ENTREPRENEUR, GLOBAL THOUGHT LEADER,
MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER

Founded the organization Upcycle Corps.

📷 @komal.parakh22 ✉ komalparakh124@gmail.com



*Komal 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, Komal Parakh, came to be an entrepreneur, educator and a speaker party leader by chance and partly due to my passion for the above fields. I am a student of science, who ended up pursuing economics and entrepreneurship. The various programs I have participated in outside of college and conferences and conclaves I have attended have had a huge influence on my career choices. I am a huge advocate of balance between academics and entrepreneurship.

The travel from my home to college during my undergraduate college years exposed me to various neighbourhoods of garment and apparel production. Taken aback by the large amounts of textile leftover from production, I was inspired to repurpose/upcycle pre-consumer textile waste into sustainable clothing concepts. It is what has led me to find my startup organization, Upcycle Corps., an organization dedicated to bringing sustainable lifestyles to communities.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

Being excellent in academics and a top achiever since my school days, I ended up pursuing ISC science for my 11&12th grade. At the end of my board exams in 2012, I appeared for various engineering entrances including IIT-JEE to AIEEE. Little did I know that my optional subject during my 11th and 12th would end up becoming my major subject during my undergraduate college. In 2012, I enrolled myself at Sophia College of Women, Mumbai where my subjects were Economics, Political Science and Statistics. During the first year of college, I was one of the 12 candidates selected out of a pool of 360 students to be a part of the prestigious Excellence in Arts Program (EXAP).



I have also represented the college at various inter-collegiate festivals, However, getting little time to devote to my various hobbies startup venture, I decided to switch to University of Mumbai to pursue the remaining 2 years of my college, my subjects still being Economics and Political Science. In 2015, I was one of the 50 candidates selected worldwide to participate in National University of Singapore's (NUS) summer program in economic and enterprise development, where my team was awarded the 1st prize for coming up with the best business model. In 2016, I was one of the 360 delegates selected to participate in the Harvard Project for Asia and International Relations (HPAIR '16), where I represented my country in the entrepreneurship panel. Between 2016-2018, I studied liberal arts at Harvard University. In 2018, I got accepted into the spring cohort of a very niche program for startup venture and entrepreneurs, called the Harvard Student Venture Network '18 at Harvard Innovation Labs.

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

I feel absolutely blessed, humbled and privileged to be selected as one of 99 achievers of India out of the millions that were nominated. This honour is a proof and acknowledgement of all the hard work I've put in over the years and also a fruit of my dedication, patience and perseverance.

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

My typical day involves a lot of work, online and offline, a gazillion interviews, applications and spending some quality time with my parents and brother. I try to take each day as it comes and achieve the milestones I've set for myself within a stipulated time period. I also try to go out on long/short outings with my family every month.

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

One of the greatest achievements that I am proud of is being able to set up a pop-up retail store in the city of Boston, USA showcasing my startup's clothing merchandise for a period of one month, i.e., between 5th March - 5th April 2021. I had travelled from Mumbai to Boston in the month of February to participate in a Boston expo, scheduled to take place on 28th February. However, on the day of my arrival in Boston, I found out that the expo has been rescheduled to 28th September. I didn't let myself feel bogged down and converted my problem into an opportunity. Every day, since I landed, I looked for opportunities in the Cambridge/Boston area to showcase my clothing merchandise. I approached various retail stores, boutiques and pop-up shops in and around the Cambridge and Boston area to ask if they'd be willing to showcase my range of sustainable clothing. I also approached one of the most upscale ateliers, L'Elite in the premium Newbury District, to ask if they'd be willing to exhibit my clothing merchandise during one of their trunk shows. On receiving indefinite responses, I finally approached the prominent property manager in the Boston area, Urban Meritage LLC to ask if I could rent out one of their spaces on Newbury District to host a retail shop for a period of month. On receiving a positive response, I managed to secure all the required documents from property insurance to the rental agreement as well as raise extra funds (1000 USD) for the pop-up all..



within a span of 10 days and finally set up the pop-up shop. Eventually, the showcase turned out to be a huge success with a footfall of over 10,000 people in a span of month and garnering 2,000 USD in revenue. I am extremely proud of myself for pulling off such a stint in the freezing, harsh winters of Boston and in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic without anyone's help or guidance.

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

When I do not achieve a particular goal or milestone I had set for myself, I just look back and try to remember why I started in the first place.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

The main principles I follow to achieve success are: Hard Work, Dedication, Patience, Persistence, Perseverance. Without these 5 values, it is impossible to achieve either success or one's goals.

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

1. Poverty 2. Hunger 3. Global Warming

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

There will be a lot of naysayers, people that don't believe in your idea/venture and people who'd have tried the idea in different ways and may have succeeded/failed. It is important for one to have firm faith in their vision and also know why he/she started out in the first place. Having said that, one should not be blindsided by their vision. It is important to accept and appreciate criticism and acknowledge where one is going wrong. Only then can one move ahead and make progress in life.

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 strong advocate of sustainability, climate action and youth empowerment, I feel absolutely honored and ecstatic to be a part of the Biggest Tree Plantation Drive in India. It has been somewhat of a dream to give back to Mother Nature in whatever way I possibly could. And what can be better than giving back 100 saplings, which would grow into wonderful, bountiful trees and make our planet a better place to live in.

One message I'd like to share with the readers is that 'Planting sapling/trees is the need of the hour.' Any step that helps reduce global warming and contributes positively to the health of our planet Earth is not a merely generous activity but a moral/social obligation. We must all learn to contribute to society in whatever way we possibly can. Even if it is possible to plant just 1 sapling/tree, one must go ahead and do it as one positive step towards Mother Nature is a collective step towards all of humanity.



GARIMA BANKA

EVENT PLANNER

SAGAKOLKATA

BLOGGER-INFLUENCER-EVENTPLANNER

Garima Banka is an influencer, socialite and an event planner in Kolkata. Her event company is called SaGa

She along with her partner, has held a child psychology talkshow with a renowned speaker for a crowd of 500 people and invited about 200 Underprivileged children for the same. The topic was 'good touch and bad touch.' It was a much needed social awareness programme

She has also organised a talkshow with the very Famous Holistic Health Coach, LUKE COUTINHO. It was an awareness of having a holistic lifestyle. The talkshow was addressed to around 700 people

She has sponsored a child via world vision which takes care of his fooding lodging and education

@garima_banka ✉ garimabankaofficial@gmail.com



Garima 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 a new journey in mid 2019. After my daughter was 5yrs old, I decided to chase my dream and passion. I entered the world of Instagram as a Fashion Blogger and after 3 months even as an event planner. Have been balancing both spheres and have carved a niche in both segments by gods grace. I have worked with 80+ brands and have had executed 7 superhit events along with my partner.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

I did a photoshoot for a fashion designer friend just for fun and realised this is where I belong and took it up professionally!

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

It's extremely overwhelming and I feel totally humbled and grateful.



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

Just like how men do but they are never asked this question! No woman can neglect her child and family, we all have the power of multi tasking. Being a woman is a super power in itself.

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

Being recognised in a big city like Kolkata is a big achievement for me. Being noticed and recognised amongst my fraternity with seniors with upto 10-12 years of experience makes me realise that hard work always pays.

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

I strongly believe one should look back and realise and value from where they started and where they have come. That's the drive for me. Everyone has struggles but that's also a learning lesson which will only take us further if we don't get demotivated and instead work even harder.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

Three H's! Humble, Hardwork & Honesty

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

1. Firstly, everyone's prayer- for the world to become COVID FREE! 2. To remove poverty
3. Make the world a safe place to live in- with women being able to walk around even in the shortest of clothes and not be scared of harassment, to dazzle and flaunt your jewellery and not feel scared to be robbed and to travel every where and not be scared to be ill treated or killed cause of racism!

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

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!

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 honoured and responsible to be part of such a great cause. A much needed initiative which is totally a need of the hour! I really feel if each one plants even one the world will heal!

I have outsourced the planting trees drive to a professional team by The Rotary Club which carries out a plantation drive where you would also see your trees grow. You can do the same by simply logging in to www.eplantations.in and registering yourself for this noble cause.



ANUSREEA PAUL

INFLUENCER, IT PROFESSIONAL, VLOGGER
THE BONG TRIPPERS

EDUCATIONIST (INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER),
INFLUENCER, SOCIAL MEDIA ENTHUSIAST

*Successfully funding education of a girl child, from the time
She started school upto her 12th standard*

*Actively involved in service to the nation and fight against
Corona (Covid 19)*

*Invited to cover tourism across Indian states - Orissa,
Chattisgarh, and Rajasthan*

*Organised a food walk in association with Radio One and RJ
Arvind to bring to everyone's knowledge, the hidden gems of
Kolkata*

*She invited by BCC&i to cover "Apish Parar Khabar -
Dalhousie" which targeted to bring the food hawkers to a
more hygienic space for them to run their business, and to
educate them in keeping their environment clean*

📷 @thebongtrippers

✉ thebongtrippers@gmail.com



*Anusreea 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?

What started out as a passion is currently outgrowing my lap as a profession. Yes. talking of food blogging. We started off as reviewers, and currently offer consulting services, strategizing the best for brands. In Kolkata, we've made our name as a reliable company to trust your brands with, what can be a bigger achievement than that. Additionally, in our IT career, I have completed 10 years as an educationist. Tackling challenges, running a team while juggling everything is a journey in itself. I have my good days, and then horrible days. When I retire to bed, I make self note of my learnings from the day, and get motivated for the next day. Whatever be the day, I don't forget to send out positivity and smiles.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE CAREER YOU ARE IN?

For my professional field as an Instructional Designer, it was a campus recruitment to the organisation of my dream, Cognizant Technology Solutions. Having spent 3.5 years of my learning graph there, I moved onto LearningMate Solutions Pvt Ltd. Definitely, not the best, but not complaining, since a different phase of my profession began here. It was during my transition period of shifting jobs, when I discovered blogging. Blogging as a profession is mostly looked down upon. But given the current position, we've brought our brand, The Bong Trippers to, people are more curious as to what this profession is all about. So, we conduct a lot of talks as to how Blogging can become a full fledged earning profession. We started off with food, moving onto lifestyle blogging. During this time, we've and keep meeting so many people. I love the talking side of this job. Plus it gives you back so much. I was actively involved in helping fellow Indians during the pandemic, working on organising tests, to hospital beds, to oxygen cylinders. It brought tears, but with every life saved, it was such a relief, and overwhelming!



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

Surreal. Yes, that's the perfect word. Because, I am the kind of person who keeps doing what comes my way. I never think of the return, or the media exposure it brings to me. So, having made this mark, and being shortlisted in a million is AMAZING. This motivates me to work harder, and definitely instills my belief on moving in the right direction. I am a sensitive person myself, so snatching away projects, making colleagues unhappy is not my cup of tea. With such a competitive market, how my work has brought me this recognition and happiness is something I'll always be thankful for.

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

Balance is the key word in my life, everyday. My day pre-pandemic began at 8:30 a.m. and ended well after 12:30 a.m. I used to manage my 9-6 job, and then rush to events which I was attending or curating. Or, I was meeting people for meetings. Which means, my actual work began after I reached home where lots of documentation, planning branding, proposals used to happen. I have successfully curated exhibitions too. My phone never stops ringing because the client/colleague/person is best conceived when they hear who you're. A new kind of work brings in a lot of learning, and this adrenaline which keeps me going. Of course, it would be unfair if I don't mention my parents, and my husband. Thankfully, they managed the house, so that I could go out and work.

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

Every year has brought in a lot of recognition, and so called "achievement" that I am extremely proud of. Every project is so close to my heart, so it'd be unfair to choose one or two. So, I'll touch upon a few.

1. Kolkata is known for her food. So, when Radio One, and RJ Arvind approached us to curate a week-long show with him, I was beyond ecstatic. We closed the program by successfully running a food wall with some chosen winners, and showing the best of Kolkata street food.
2. The Bong Trippers was adjudged the Jury's Choice winner of Thai Airways Best Travel Blog 2020
3. We've been recognised for our extensive work on Covid by Anti Human Trafficking by Ansari Vikas Charitable Trust
4. Invited by iLead University to talk about Blogging as a Profession
5. Time and again featured on Calcutta Times, Sananda (popular Bengali magazine, The Telegraph - Salt Lake etc, for our work

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

That's an everyday story, when things don't go as planned. Especially the kind of dynamic profession I am in, it is always the last minute change or the requirement that breaks the whole planned momentum of an event. But like I said, when your intentions are right, your event has to be successful. So, being born in December, I am a true Sagittarius, which means positivity and optimism is my second name. That is how I encourage myself, and my team, and I never forget to wear my best gift, my parents' teachings, and my smile.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES YOU FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

My principles are very straight, and I follow it to the T.

Never dupe people,- Never cheat anybody , Never expect and Always work hard, no short cuts.

These might sound cliché but if you honestly follow these four steps, nobody can stop you in your path of growth. Talking ill about anybody without knowing the full story is another aspect which I stay away from. And remembering parents before starting any new work, that's my secret.

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

- Making education COMPULSORY. I cannot harp enough on how education is so important for everyone, not just girl childs.
- Making education loans easily available and at easy interests, so that anybody can afford it, and repay it while getting educated themselves
- Making the medical facilities more easily available, and fair for all

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

Do not jump into any profession by looking at the glam or the money side of it. That is there, but will come later. What should matter is your love for the profession. If you cannot love what you do, you can never respect it, and the relationship will fail. You should be able to sleep peacefully when you retire for the day, that is when you know you're doing it right.

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?

Absolutely, cannot harp enough on this point. Yes, I feel elated, because I have a terrace garden, a backyard garden, a balcony garden, I love waking to see my greens. Lately, people tend to misunderstand the tree plantation drives, calling it media gimmicks, attention seeking tactics etc. That's not true. If you have a mini balcony, you can still keep 2-3 small plants. Planting a tree on your child's birthday can be a great start for you, and the child to learn. In fact, every happy occasion in the family should be graced with a tree planting. Which means automatically we'll have more nurseries growing in every neighborhood or groups like Rotary can come to the rescue.

Any message you wish to share with the readers about Planting trees and following the food steps of an Achiever like you?

I would feel like a true influencer, even if 1% of my readers follow my footsteps, and sync with my planting tree thoughts. It is cost effective, fruitful for the world we live in, and a great example. So, each of us should lead by example, and plant more trees, and bring in more oxygen for our neighbourhood.