

A COLLECTOR'S EDITION



# Pearls of Rajasthan in UAE

## G8

ICONIC PERSONALITIES  
IN THE REGION

BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
VIKAS BHARGAVA



# Rajasthan

This First Edition of the “Pearls of Rajasthan in UAE”  
Showcasing the Achievement and success stories of Rajasthani from all walk of life.

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आँखों के दरमियान मैं गुलिस्तां दिखाता हूँ,  
 आना कभी मेरे देश मैं आपको राजस्थान दिखाता हूँ।  
 खेजड़ी के साखो पर लटके फूलो की कीमत बताता हूँ,  
 मैं साम्भर की झील से देखना कैसे नमक उठाता हूँ।  
 मैं शेखावाटी के रंगो से पनपी चित्रकला दिखाता हूँ,  
 महाराणा प्रताप के शौर्य की गाथा सुनाता हूँ।  
 पद्मावती और हाड़ी रानी का जोहर बताता हूँ,  
 पग गुँघरु बाँध मीरा का मनोहर दिखाता हूँ।  
 सोने सी माटी मे पानी का अरमान बताता हूँ,  
 आना कभी मेरे देश मैं आपको राजस्थान दिखाता हूँ।

हिरन की पुतली मे चाँद के दर्शन कराता हूँ, चंदरबरदाई के शब्दों की वयाख्या सुनाता हूँ।

मीठी बोली, मीठे पानी मे जोधपुर की सैर करता हूँ,  
 कोटा, बूंदी, बीकानेर और हाड़ोती की मैं मल्हार गाता हूँ।  
 पुष्कर तीरथ कर के मैं चिश्ती को चादर चढ़ाता हूँ,  
 जयपुर के हवामहल मैं, गीत मोहबत के गाता हूँ।  
 जीते सी इस धरती पर स्वर्ग का मैं वरदान दिखाता हूँ,  
 आना कभी मेरे देश मैं आपको राजस्थान दिखाता हूँ।।

कोठिया दिखाता हूँ, राज हवेली दिखाता हूँ,  
 नज़ारे ठहर न जाए कहीं मैं आपको कुम्भलगढ़ दिखाता हूँ।  
 घूँघट में जीती मर्यादा और गंगानगर का मतलब समझाता हूँ,  
 तनोट माता के मंदिर से मैं विश्व शांति की बात सुनाता हूँ।  
 राजिया के दोहो से लेके, जाम्भोजी के उसूल पढ़ाता हूँ,  
 होठो पे मुस्कान लिए, मुछो पे ताव देते राजपूत की परिभाषा बताता हूँ।  
 सिक्खो की बस्ती मे, पूजा के बाद अज्ञान सुनाता हूँ,  
 आना कभी मेरे देश मैं आपको राजस्थान दिखाता हूँ।।











**CHIEF MINISTER  
RAJASTHAN**

No. NSB/KMP/2019/  
Jaipur, 12th July, 2019



**Message**

I am glad to know that DCOM Design Co. FZE is going to honour the great achievers and iconic personalities of Rajasthan by bringing out a coffee table book titled "Pearls of Rajasthan in the Middle East" in Dubai on 15 August 2019. The day happens to be the auspicious occasion of India's 73rd Independence Day.

People of Rajasthan have created a niche for themselves by virtue of their hard work and innate sense of dedication. They have richly contributed to the development of the country they are living in. A number of Rajasthanis are living in the UAE which has become their adopted home.

I am sure the coffee table book will encapsulate the achievements and contribution of the Rajasthani Diaspora. I hope that the stories of iconic achievers will inspire the new generation to follow suit.

I thank you for your kind invitation and convey my best wishes for the success of the endeavour.

**(Ashok Gehlot)**

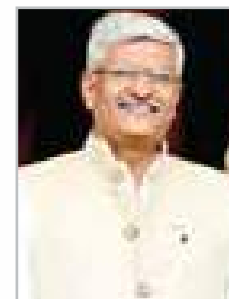


गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत  
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat



जल शक्ति मंत्री  
भारत सरकार  
Minister for Jal Shakti  
Government of India

## MESSAGE



It is good to know that DCOM Designs is bringing out the first of its kind Coffee Table Book from UAE on Rajasthan Community. It's always great to see the achievers of the Rajasthan, they not only carry the legacy but also passing the baton to the next generation gracefully.

It is heartening to know that DCOM Designs-after the last years successful launch of "Most ICONIC NRIs of the UAE" bringing this book on Rajasthan. I am sure this will promote and grace the aura of Rajasthan community not only in UAE but also around the globe.

I wish all the associated members of "Pearls of Rajasthan in UAE" a great success in their endeavour.

**(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**



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## RAJYASHREE KUMARI BIKANER

It gives me immense pleasure to know that UAE based "DCOM Design Co. FZE is bringing out its another edition of Coffee Table Book titled "Pearls of Rajasthan" in UAE 2018-2019 by the team led by Mr. Vikas Bhargava.

People of Rajasthan especially those who are engaged in business and other professions abroad, are the brand ambassador of Rich Rajasthani Culture and Traditions. They have always worked for the mother land with the spirit of total commitment and dedication.

It is heartening to know that DCOM Designs after the last years successful launch of "Most ICONIC NRIs of the UAE" bringing this book on Rajasthan. I am sure this will promote and grace the aura of Rajasthan community not only in UAE but also around the globe.

I convey my heartiest congratulations and good wishes to all those who are associated with this Coffee Table Book titled "Pearls of Rajasthan in UAE".

With all good wishes,

Rajyashree Kumari  
Princess of Bikaner



Date : 02.05.2019  
Place : Bikaner



भारत का प्रधान कौंसलवास  
दुबई



القنصلية العامة الهندية  
دبي

Consulate General Of India  
Dubai

17 July, 2019



**MESSAGE**

I am happy that DCOM Designs is coming out with the unique coffee table book "Pearls of Rajasthan in UAE" showcasing the successful journey of Rajasthan origin people in UAE who have been at the forefront in giving back to the community, both in UAE and in India. The achievements of these icons will be a source of great inspiration and motivation to achieve bigger goals for the younger generations. This compilation of Rajasthani icons will help them to connect with each other more easily and will be of immense benefit to all expat community members. I wish DCOM Designs all success in its future endeavours.

(NEERAJ AGRAWAL)  
Acting Consul General

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### Best Wishes Message



I was pleased when Vikas Bhargava from DCOM Designs informed me that there is book on RAJASTHAN community called "Pearls of Rajasthan in UAE" is in process. I'm sure there might be many books but the stars are unlimited and people of Rajasthan are always front runners of the society, today they are seen as great achievers. It's always great to feature the achievers from all walk of life

After the last years successful launch of "Most ICONIC NRIs of the UAE" DCOM Designs led by Vikas Bhargava and his team bringing this book on Rajasthan.

I'm sure this will endorse and poise the impression of Rajasthan community not only in UAE but also around the globe.

I wish all best in their endeavor



Vashu Shroff  
Chairman, Regal Group



## Message of Congratulations

*For many decades now, the UAE has been a source of success and happiness for the large NRI community of unskilled laborers to businessmen and top professionals. The country has given endless opportunities to NRIs and provided a safe environment for pursuing careers and business interests in various fields.*

*The 3.7 million strong Indian expatriate community in the UAE is one of the largest NRI groups in the world. As a community, one of the most profound impacts we have made in the UAE is by way of pioneering initiatives and investments in key sectors like education, healthcare, research, retail business, construction, etc.*

*UAE-based Indian expatriate, especially from Rajasthan have also been at the forefront of giving back to the community, both here and in India. Moreover, these NRI- have been increasingly investing in India, thereby using the fruits of our success to drive the growth and progress of our home country as well. We, Indian have always made our country proud by way of the countless recognitions we have achieved here. The UAE government has always lavished praise at the Indian expat community, for our role in building the modern and futuristic UAE. This gives us more reasons and motivation to pursue bigger ambitions in this beautiful "Karma Bhoomi".*

*I congratulate DCOM Designs for coming out with this publication, "Pearls of Rajasthan in UAE" which details the achievements of UAE's most iconic community members. This is not the first such effort from Vikas Bhargava of DCOM Designs, who have always been enthusiastic about celebrating the accomplishments of the NRI community in the UAE.*

*I am sure that this book will serve not only as a source of pride for the Rajasthani community, but also as a source of inspiration for young and upcoming Indian professionals and entrepreneurs who are driven by the dream of transforming our country into a global superpower.*

*Rizwan Sajan*

*Chairman & CEO  
Danube Group*



## Message of Congratulations

It gives me immense pleasure to know that UAE based "DCOM Design Co. FZE is bringing out its yet another edition of Coffee Table Book titled "Pearls of Rajasthan" in UAE 2018-2019 by the team led by Vikas Bhargava.

People of Rajasthan especially those who are engaged in business and other professions abroad, they are the brand ambassador of Rich Rajasthani Culture and Traditions. They have always worked for the land where they have resided with the spirit of total commitment and dedication.

It is heartening to know that DCOM Designs after the last years successful launch of "Most ICONIC NRIs of the UAE" bringing this book on Rajasthan. I'm sure this will promote and grace the aura of Rajasthan community not only in UAE but also around the globe.

I Convey my heartiest good wishes to all those who are associated with this Coffee Table Book "Pearls of Rajasthan in UAE". I Wish I can see more in the years to come

I wish all best in their endeavor

Yours Sincerely,



Bikram Vohra

Editorial Consultant

August 1, 2019

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Firstly I would like to thank all the Community members for giving me this opportunity to work on this wonderful project, not to miss the long waiting and calls but it all ending in great meetings and hospitality.

Each person and their family in a class of their own, there is lot to see, lot to learn and lot to write about them. Many we missed to meet yet felt the aura and grace while working on the designs.

Initially seemed like a daunting task, but then I want to thank all the members in this journey, who not only had given the opportunity to work on this Coffee Table Book but constantly was guiding us through to make this book a memorable one as each had a great source of content.

Rest I'm sure the details of the book will explain.



On a personal note - many of the RAJASTHANI are so different and motivating that I would like to have yet another "session of chai" with them.

Vikas Bhargava

Editor / Creative Director



Rajasthan - The land of Glory ..... 001 - 004

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Varun Jain ..... 009 - 012

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Nimish Makvana ..... 021 - 024  
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# Rajasthan, the land of glory

A state of northwestern India, located in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent. It is bounded to the north and northeast by the states of Punjab and Haryana, to the east and southeast by the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, to the southwest by the state of Gujarat, and to the west and northwest by the provinces of Sindh and Punjab in Pakistan. The capital city is Jaipur, in the east-central part of the state.

The state covers an area of 342,239 square kilometers or 10.4 percent of the total geographical area of India. It is the largest Indian state by area and the seventh largest by population.

'Raja' means 'King' and 'Sthan' means place. Put together, Rajasthan is the 'Land of The Kings'. It was previously called Rajputana. Over the years it

has been ruled by various kings including the Rajput, Marathas and even Muslim rulers, which have resulted in Rajasthan, bearing numerous beautiful forts with a wide variety in its architecture and diverse language and culture of its people. Rajasthan, in spite of being a desert, has been endowed with such beautiful sites that include various palaces, forts and pilgrim centres that define what Rajasthan is. Rajasthan is famous for its prestigious past and its various customs and traditions. It truly gives an insight into historical India and its remarkable diversity. Rajasthan has artistic and cultural traditions which reflect the ancient Indian way of life.

It is also a tourism destination with lots of tourist attractions and good tourist facilities. This historical state of India attracts tourists and vacationers with its rich culture, tradition, heritage, and monuments. It also has some sanctuaries & national parks.





## Architecture

The architectural style in Rajasthan is as diverse as its people. You get to explore some of the exemplary sites of Islamic, Hindu, colonial and even modern architecture. Rajasthan should be your next place to visit if you are a lover of architecture and appreciate monumental buildings, heritage sites and different styles of design. The Jain temple in Ranakpur was built in the 15th century. The style of architecture is Māru-Gurjara Architecture (styles that include various structures and shapes). It is western Indian architecture style with various domes and carvings on the pillars and the ceilings.

The Umaid Bhavan Palace in Jodhpur is an architecture of Beaux Arts style along with a blend of eastern and western architectural style; in spite of being built by Maharaja Jai Singh II, a Hindu ruler. Jaisalmer Fort and Golden Fort were built in 1156 AD by the Rajput ruler Rawal Jaisal. The fort contains several gates, Jain temples and Havelis and is included as a world heritage site by UNESCO. There are only a few examples of

architectural sites that Rajasthan holds. Other sites include memorials, forts, heritage hotels, etc.

Rajasthan is famous for its many historical forts, temples and palaces (Havelis), which predominantly drives tourism in the state.





### **Folk Music & dance**

Highly cultivated classical music and dance with its own distinct style is part of the cultural tradition of Rajasthan. The music is uncomplicated and songs depict day-to-day relationships and chores, more often focused around fetching water from wells or ponds. Since many rulers ruled Rajasthan, each region has its own folk culture. The folk music and dance of Rajasthan are similar due to their geographical confinement, but each differs in their unique style. Manganiyars and Langas are two prominent groups that contributed to the Rajasthan folk music. They perform 'ragas' (songs) for different purposes. Like during the pre-monsoon time, they would perform ragas to call forth the rains. Other famous groups are Banjaras, Mirasis, Jogis, and much more.

The Ghoomar dance from Jodhpur and Kalbeliya dance of Jaisalmer have gained international recognition. Folk music is a vital part of Rajasthani culture. Kathputali, Bhopa, Chang, Teratali, Ghindar, Kachchhighori, Tejaji, Parth dance etc. are the examples of the traditional Rajasthani culture. Folk songs are commonly ballads which relate heroic deeds and love stories; and religious or devotional songs known as bhajans and banis (often accompanied by musical instruments like dholak, sitar, sarangi etc.) are also sung.

Kanhaiya Geet also sung in major areas of east Rajasthani belt in the collecting manner as a best source of entertainment in the rural areas.

### **Arts and crafts**

Rajasthan is famous for textiles, semi-precious stones and handicrafts, and for its traditional and colorful art. Rajasthani furniture has intricate carvings and bright colors. Block prints, tie and dye prints, Bagaru prints, Sanganer prints and Zari embroidery are major export products from Rajasthan. The blue pottery of Jaipur is particularly noted; also the beautiful carpets, garments, jewellery and more, are all made by the local people. Any leather item is usually camel leather - they use it to make journals, shoes and bags. The carpets are made from the hand-knitting techniques and much like Persian carpets; they have a geometric design and borders. There are also many miniature items made out of red sand or clay as toys for kids or decoration pieces with bells attached to it. The saafah or pagri (traditional headwear) in most of the shops that bring colors from the place.

Shopping in Rajasthan is very reasonable and is an opportunity not to be missed. Antiques are a whole different thing.



## Festivals

The main religious festivals are Deepawali, Holi, Gangaur, Teej, Gogaji, Makar Sankranti and Janmashtami. Rajasthan's desert festival is celebrated with great zest and zeal. This festival is held once a year during winters. People of the desert dance and sing ballads of valor, romance and tragedy. There are fairs with snake charmers, puppeteers, acrobats and folk performers. Camels play a prominent role in this festival.

## Food

As a tourist, there are some foods that you need to try! Rajasthani food is known for its various spices and also its sweetness. Rajasthan is most famous for daal bati - A dish comprising of dal and wheat flour kneaded with yoghurt and dressed in ghee. It is also famous for kachori in Rajasthan are of two types - sweet and spicy. The spicy one is called the pyaaz or onion kachori, and the sweet one called the mawa kachori. Both are easily available in any food stalls in Rajasthan. Ghewar and gheriya are some delectable sweet dishes originating from Mewar, available in most restaurants at Rajasthan. Rajasthani dishes are mainly made in ghee. More than 70% of Rajasthan is vegetarian, which makes it the most vegetarian state in India



\* Photo Courtesy - Manesh Agarwal, Delhi







# A Film Maker *with* Creative Ingenuity

KAPIL VERMA Filmmaker

*"I have seen Dubai go from creeks to this world-class city," he recalls.*

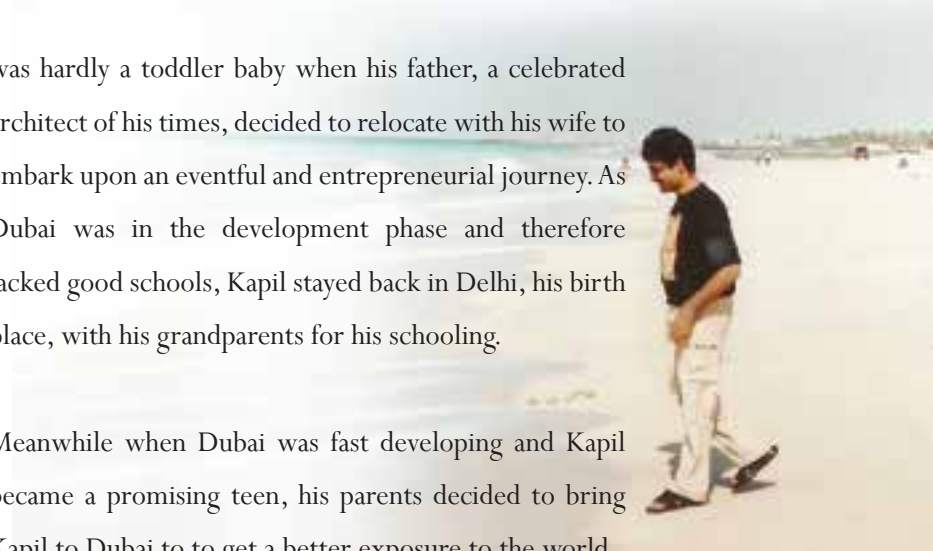


Kapil Verma, a vibrant film maker, is the founder of Masterkopy, a leading production house with presence in UAE, New Delhi and Canada. Kapil's acumen as a film professional with over 35 years of experience is well acknowledged. The fact that he is credited with over 200 productions including TV commercials, corporate films, documentaries, TV shows etc. is a tribute to his creativity.

Kapil's UAE connection dates back to his childhood. He

was hardly a toddler baby when his father, a celebrated architect of his times, decided to relocate with his wife to embark upon an eventful and entrepreneurial journey. As Dubai was in the development phase and therefore lacked good schools, Kapil stayed back in Delhi, his birth place, with his grandparents for his schooling.

Meanwhile when Dubai was fast developing and Kapil became a promising teen, his parents decided to bring Kapil to Dubai to get a better exposure to the world.







With Grand Parents



Parents



With Father

*“Whatever I did, I tried to do it with dedication.”*

“I have seen Dubai go from creeks to the present world class city,” says a nostalgic Kapil and adds, “Dubai broadened my outlook as I mingled with people of all hues and nationalities.

His father’s decision to return to India to open a first ever TV studio in Delhi NCR, Shakti Studios, became a turning point in Kapil’s life. Under the shadow of his father and film professionals, Kapil’s inclination towards the creative world of films was instant. The more he learnt, the more creative he became.

As he gained initial experience, he grabbed the golden opportunity to work in a leading Delhi-based media house for global exposure. “Initially my father was not

too inclined at my decision but soon succumbed to my unusual enthusiasm. I wanted to learn more and more to get ready for our studio,” says Kapil.

His dedication and growing fascination for the visual world soon started bearing fruits. “The learning process of moving from one place to other in search of aesthetic terrains made me more passionate”, says Kapil with pride. He started putting in hard work with gingerly pace for learning more and more as nothing could deter him from his chosen path.

Kapil went on to make a variety of video programs touching subjects like Travel & Tourism, Environment, TV Shows, and Documentaries etc. His assignments

took him to various sensitive areas like Kashmir, Afghanistan profiling political big wigs of the day. He cherishes a memory when he chanced upon a meeting with the legendary Oscar Winner filmmaker Satyajit Ray whom he regards as a ‘God amongst men of Cinema’.

Once he gained enough of confidence and professional ability, he embarked upon a challenging journey as a freelance film maker. Moved by his passion, he decided to sell the piece of land gifted by his father to acquire hi-tech state-of-the-art camera making Kapil get ready for the new journey. “Challenges did come my way but I took each challenge as a stepping stone to gain new heights”, Kapil says with a visible sense of pride.







“A career without some sport looked raw as I always cherished a desire to learn professional tennis,” Kapil opines. To fulfill his desire, he went to Sussex, England, to coach under a British instructor.

Kapil is a complete family man with his personal life as vivacious as his professional life. His wife, Rana Ikram, also a film graduate, complements Kapil’s professional endeavors. “My wife who belongs to a rational Muslim family initially caused a flutter in my family with a conservative background but eventually won everyone’s heart with her magnanimous behavior.”

Once Kapil made his mark as an ace filmmaker in UAE, he decided to send his wife and his two sons, Rahil and Harshil, to Canada in pursuit of higher studies. My wife joins me when I advise our sons,



“Don’t live in your comfort zone, move out and explore the possibilities the exciting world offers. That’s the way to go up the ladder of success and more.”

Kapil recently met with a freak accident when a speeding car rammed into an ATM booth in Dubai where he was doing a transaction. The accident which made Kapil immobile for a few months could not rob Kapil of his enthusiasm. He ably organized all his work from his bed with a renewed verve. He is a true fighter in personal and professional life.

Kapil is a fitness freak. He makes a habit to go for a long walks wherever he is. “But taking a stroll at Corniche is my first passion as I firmly believe that the soul of Dubai still lives in the Creek even as so much has changed in Dubai over the years,” Kapil says.



Kapil is a culture personified as he gives credit to his mentor Karan Thapar, the TV presenter of global fame. “One needs to be humble, to learn from the leaders and to work as a team. Personal rapport matters a lot in today’s complex world” are a few traits I learnt from him.

Despite his enviable achievements, Kapil remains humble and grounded. “This legacy has been handed down to us from our ancestors and we value it the most.”

With his roots in Rajasthan, Kapil misses the pristine glory of the state known for its colours, costumes and a rich culture. He says “Rajasthan truly depicts the diversity of India, that’s the reason the Ad films showcasing India are mostly shot there.”





# *Life is a* **Challenge.** Take it.

VARUN JAIN, Founder, Brighter Prep

*“Follow the shades of life. you’ll keep getting ideas and motivation from them”*



Born and brought up in Kota, known as the coaching hub of India, Varun surprisingly yet very successfully refused to undermine extra-curricular activities in favour of monotonous academia. It is his fervour and grit to not become subservient to rote learning that paved the way for this tremendous success.

Today, he runs one of the most popular test preparation centres and student counselling firm in the region, with a proven track record of helping thousands of students getting admission into premium universities including the Ivy Leagues.

He earnestly believes that it was his parents' holistic view of education and his own grit that led him to this juncture in his life. A large credit also goes to his innate sense of stubbornness which paved his way to stand out of the norm - which automatically came from being the youngest child in the family.

His parents never confined him to run-of-the-mill academia. "My mother herself used to always drive me around the city for my diverse fields of interests including drama, debating and writing", he fondly reminisces.





*"My mother herself used to always drive me around the city for my diverse fields of interests including drama, debating and writing",*

This doesn't mean that he ever relegated his regular academics to a secondary position or to something of scant importance. "I have always been an above average student in my school days", he very modestly recalls. That said, using the term "above average student" seems to be downplaying his achievements as he went on to receive the best student trophy by none other than the then PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Later, despite inceptive reservations and a dash of inclination towards medical studies, Varun started his under graduate program in bachelors in business. However, he didn't allow his formal college education to punctuate his love for teaching and sharing knowledge with his contemporaries. He thus forayed into the field of teaching as a part-time teacher in his early days of college. While he was teaching and fuelling his fire to inspire others, he dreamt of expanding his horizons and study in the world-class universities abroad.

However, his dreams were quashed due to financial shortcoming. He had to overcome another problem — of a huge language barrier. Having studied in a Hindi medium school, he fell short when it came to the English language. He didn't allow this to overpower his dreams

amateurishly. Instead, he took up a night job at call-center to earn money and at the same time hone his English speaking skills.

At the same time, his dream of going abroad never disappeared into nothingness. Therefore, later with scholarship, Varun went on to complete his masters in knowledge management from Singapore.

His love for teaching remained prevalent. No wonder, after completing his masters, he chose to work with a startup where he counselled students rather than working for a behemoth corporate firm.





After nearly six years in Singapore, his work and fate worked out hand in glove, and he relocated to Dubai in 2011 where he started his own TestPrep student counselling firm. Now after a gamut of years and a corpus of work in this field, he is at the helm of 8 offices and his business foresees the career of over 3000 students a year coming from different countries.

Now looking back at this extensive and extraordinary journey, he feels that there's nothing he would change

in his path to success. Yet he puts a strong emphasis on learning and believes that learning continues even if you are at the zenith of your personal as well as professional life.

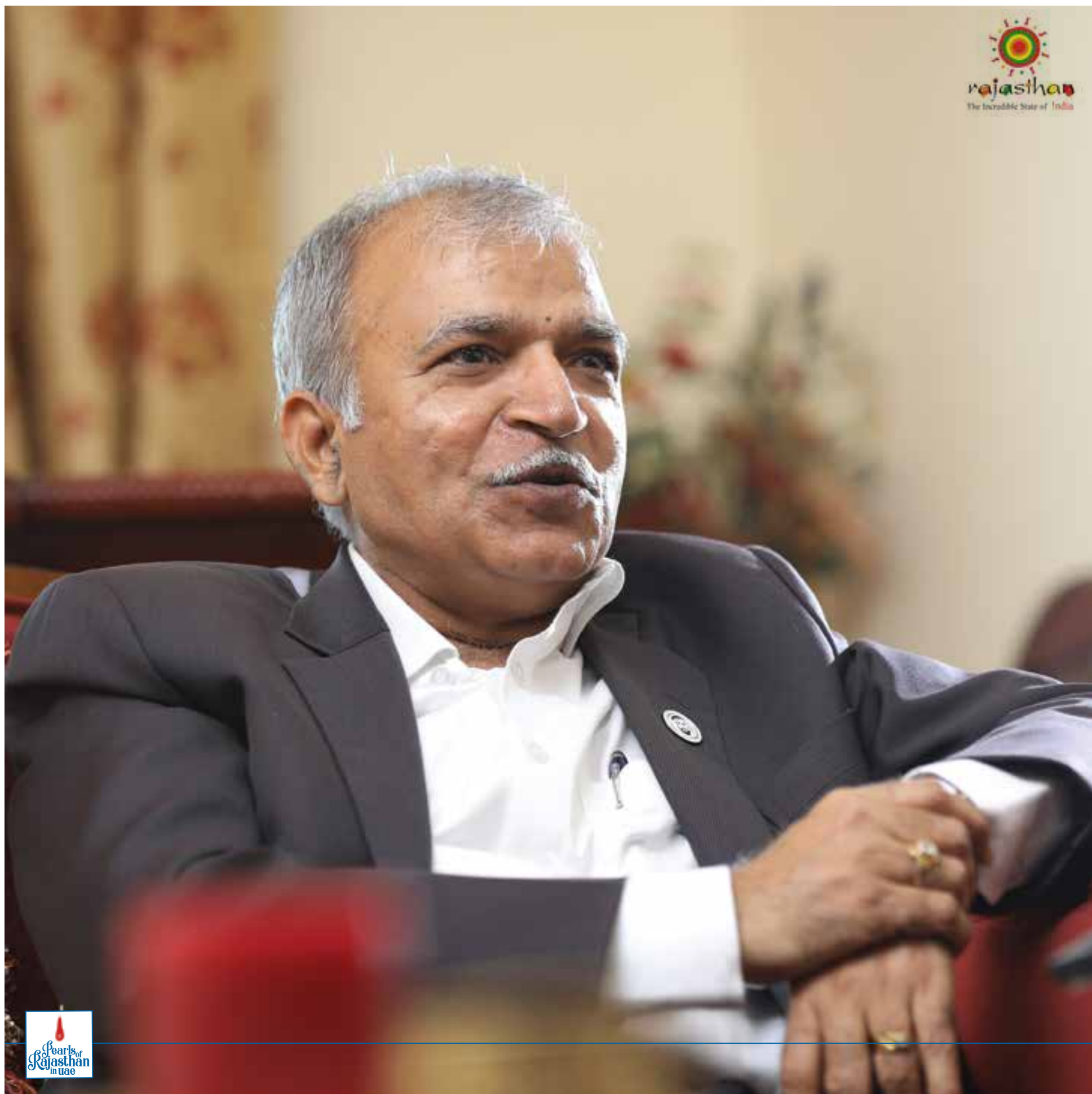
Even today he derives his motivation and support from his wife Roopali from Kota, who herself is a business graduate. Never expected anything yet happy with life as it comes. Positive and confident person believes her mother as true mentor. If we come to

think of it, while Varun is busy nurturing and mentoring a cosmopolitan set of students achieve their dreams, Roopali nurtures and mentors him and their two kids Saisha (5) Shanay (1) at home. Together, they are a picture of contentment.

Varun's life is indeed a saga of hard work, dreaming big, and risk-taking which he derived from his family, something he never allowed to be punctuated by fait accompli.









# Where Excellence is a norm

DR KANAK MADRECHA, MD & Principal Consultant (Dr Kanak Madrecha & Associates FZ LLE)

*“Right timings and right decisions comes with your experience.”*



1957, when the world started preparing itself for a tale that shall be in the books of achievement of many companies. Dr. Kanak Madrecha, a man of unmatched energy, did his schooling from a small town near Udaipur with minimal physical resources. But Kanak

was always a boy of acumen, and the proof was well printed in 1974 when he passed his higher secondary examination with 7th rank from Rajasthan Board. The story moved with its pace and another feather added with his 4th rank in BITS Pilani- Mechanical Branch.



Later Kanak packed his bags for Mumbai and attended National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) in 1979-1981 and passed with 2nd rank. And started his career with Mafatlal Textiles, and later moved to Philips India.

It was a drift in career when he started as a full time faculty in NITIE, Mumbai, and acclaims to have trained approximately 10,000 executives. At a minimal age of 27, he had presented a detailed Productivity Studies Report to determined board of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL).

Later he took a major step and moved to Siemens Information Systems as a certified SAP consultant.

By 1994, Dr Kanak shifted to the UAE and joined The Kanoo Group as Organizational and Methods analyst & rose to become Projects & Quality Manager-UAE & Oman and worked there till 2007.

In 1996, to help Kanoo Group evolve and compete for Dubai Quality Award, Kanak opted as a volunteer DQA Assessor. And then in 2000 Kanak's efforts got its final destination when he was promoted to DQA Jury in 2009.

Later Dr Kanak also joined the assessment team of Sheikh Khalifa Excellence Award (SKEA). In 2010 when Abu Dabi municipality offered a significantly

senior position & challenge to Dr Kanak, he moved to Abu Dhabi.

After playing various cards of life, in 2012, Dr Kanak finally launched his own consultancy under the name Dr Kanak Madrecha & Associates FZ LLE.

In his journey of excellence he has achieved 40+ appreciation letters from different clients both public and private sectors and government authorities,.

He is also looking forward to popularize other quality awards in different countries.

Dr Kanak declares his satisfaction in ability to “inspire any organization management & staff to delight all stakeholders and make it a world class organization”.

*H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai honoured several times for his notable leadership contributions to business excellence movement in Emirate of Dubai & other His Highnesses from Abu Dhabi for his other contributions in UAE*

*Also been awarded by several organizations for his leadership contributions to business excellence field in UAE/GCC for last 20 years.*





### The Prestigious recognitions include:

*Dr. Kanak Madrecha, Principal Consultant/Managing Director (Dr Kanak Madrecha & Associates FZ LLE) and President (Global Development, Supply Chain & Logistics Group/SCLG) is a world class leader and professional in business excellence and supply chain & logistics. He has been honoured by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai in 2002, 2007, 2010 and 2011 for his notable leadership contributions to business excellence movement in UAE.*

*The Only Excellence Advisor in UAE with following unique credentials who:-*

- 1. Supported 39 large & reputed organizations from various industry sectors (Public & Private Sector Organizations) to win 85 prestigious Excellence Awards in last 19 years in UAE*
- 2. Has been honoured by His Highnesses for his contributions to UAE's Journey Towards Excellence.*
- 3. Has been Jury of Dubai Quality Award (DQA)*
- 4. Has been Jury of Dubai Human Development Award (DHDA)*
- 5. Has been Jury of Sheikh Khalifa Excellence Award (SKEA)*
- 6. Has been Assessor of MRM Business Award (MRMBA)*
- 7. Has been Secretary General of Dubai Quality Group (DQG)*
- 8. Has a total of 38 years experience (including 25 years in UAE working in public, private & government sector organizations)*
- 9. Is Ph.D. & PG (Industrial Engineering) from NITIE Mumbai & BE (Mechanical Engg) from BITS Pilani.*
- 10. Is founding Board Member of Supply Chain & Logistics Group (A Business Group under Dubai Chamber).*

*“Courage is found in unlikely places”*



He shares his story of endeavor with his wife Madhu, who belongs to Udaipur. Madhu is a wonderful home-maker & cook; and both of them are actively involved in preaching Yoga, meditation & naturopathy.

Their Son-Arpan & Daughter-in-law Richa, Daughter-Kriti Bhandari & Son-in-law Anand Bhandari, all believe in traditional get-together.

It is a matter of amusement that a man of such astuteness has a strict routine of getting up early in the morning.

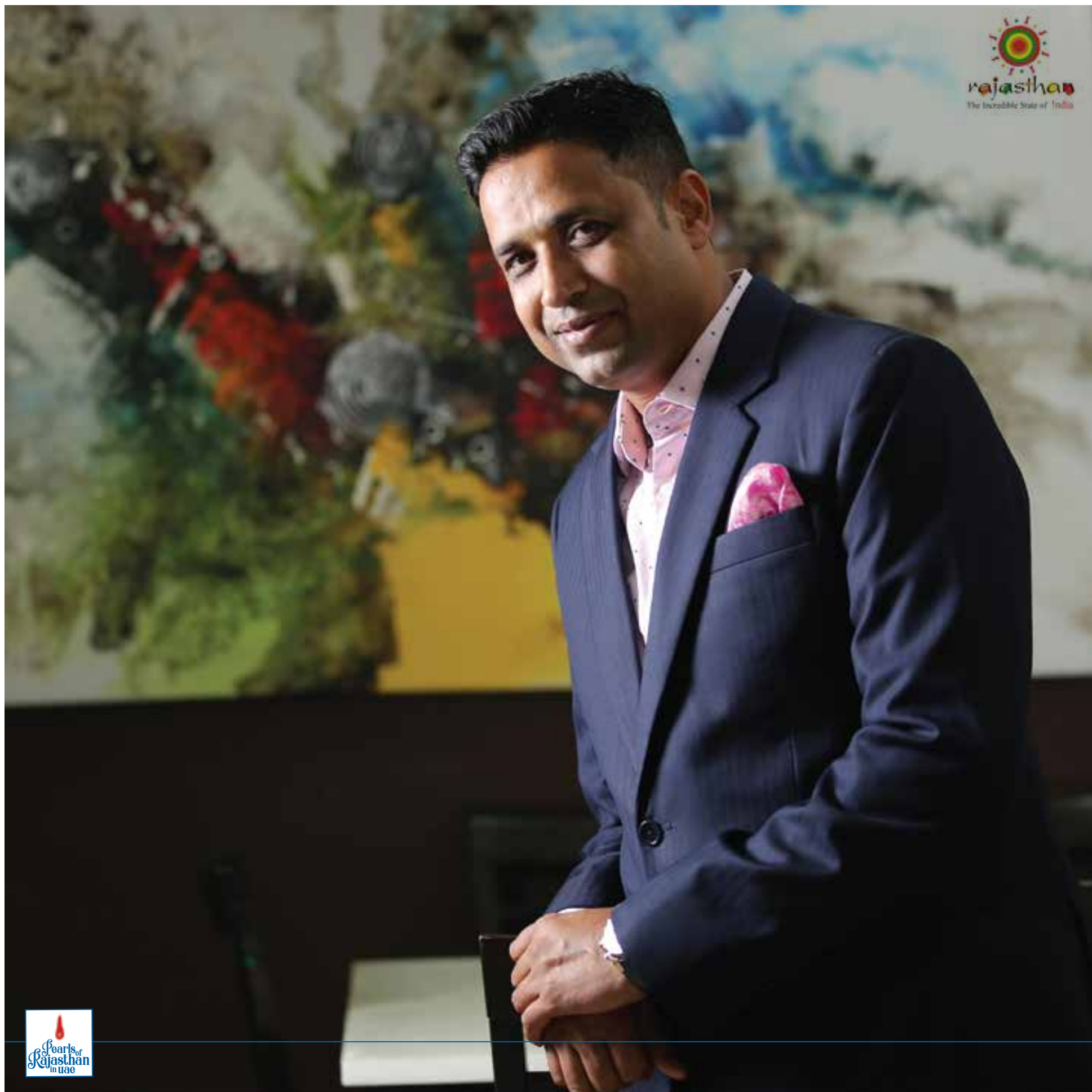
That is when we felt, matching a Rajasthani's determination is a tough task. Though their new home-land has felicitated them with all flavors of

Rajasthan, but the craving of Rajasthan that has a special place in their heart keeps them going back to their place in every few months.

Dr Kanak is a strong believer of self-made fortunes, and in this world his success shall get gold engraving. It's said “Courage is found in unlikely places”, Dr Kanak's list of achievements belongs to a similar place, Rajasthan. Today, when he strongly believes that “days aren't important, hours are”, he still feels that the hour gap between Indian and The UAE time zone has kept him miles apart from his parents.

And lastly, we feel Kanak's story needs be left at a sugary end, to let its odor smell all around.





# Starve your distractions & feed your focus

LAVANYA MATHUR, Strategic Partner- Compass Financial Solutions,  
Consulting Director SILGO Group

*" It has been incredibly accomplishing and I still have a far way to achieve my long term goals "*



Lavanya Mathur, a man from the city of Jaipur, from a well-decorated family of medical professional and social bureaucrats. He was rebellious during his childhood. While his two elder brothers were toppers and successful in semi-government sectors. He, on the contrary, joined the corporate world.

Lavanya is a college time sportsman with experience in

badminton and swimming. He considers his college time as the most crucial because it strengthened him a lot as a person through his achievements and failures.

His first Job was as a Junior Salesman for an FMCG retail brand, in Jaipur. When asked about his journey in UAE He replied, " It has been incredibly accomplishing and I still

have a far way to achieve my long term goals "





*“I’m a firm believer of nature and its miracles,  
with few miracles I work with”*



He added, “Both UAE and India have played vital parts in each other’s growth, because of the age-old culture and the economic ties between the nations”.

Lavanya Started his career in Dubai with Standard Chartered Bank and RAK Bank. Moving with 2 decade experience in retail private banking and wealth management, now he is Director - Sales and Strategic Partner with Compass Insurance Brokers since 2011 also Consulting Director in SILGO Group. Which owns several business ranging from sustainable residential, commercial and industrial projects.

He keeps his work-life balance, by never allowing personal matters in work and never brings work matters at home. Likes to spend his ‘me time’ with his little daughter. He also likes to play a sport or go gym during that time. “If I come across any opportunity of doing things differently for the betterment of my business, family, community or hometown. I will do it happily. ”This shows how important is his work and

his family to him, especially when it comes to their betterment.

He is mostly a perpetual and keen learner with an appetite to learn new things but sometimes guides his colleagues/subordinates. While asked about the difference between a Boss and a Leader he said, “A boss is an autocrat and believes in absolute power, while a Leader is a democrat and motivates the team to bring forth everyone’s contribution.”

Lavanya has lot of praises for his mentor, Shree SN Saxena, “there is lot to learn and see simplicity in him” Success never comes easy, he being into Financial Solutions and Events, seen many ups n down but always believe in consistency and focus to get best out of every challenge.

Lavanya's message to the young generation is that they should learn from their mistakes but never let them knock them out.





*" I never expected this much. I am grateful for whatever I have. "*



Dr. Anju, his wife who has a PhD. in Biotechnology, born in Jaipur in a liberal family, is an ambitious, friendly, confident and responsible person. When she was asked about if she is satisfied with whatever life has given her, she replied, "It has given me more than I ever expected - an amazing family and great friends."

She likes to spend her 'me time' going reading, listening to music and singing. Her daughter is her lifeline, and she guides her daughter whenever needed and advises her rationally.

Both Lavanya and Anju miss Rajasthan a lot. Lavanya misses the street where he grew up, then the authentic

food, local dialect and friends and relatives back there.

Whereas Anju misses the food of Chokhi Dhani (Jaipur), then the vibrant festivals, spicy street food and the never-ending shopping time.





# The Athletic FamilyMan

NIMISH MAKVANA, Senior Partner, Crowe & President IBPC

*“I have always trusted myself, motivated myself, and kept faith in God.  
Keep doing the best in everything with integrity and honesty with focusing on the results,”*



Ancestors coming from Rajasthan, his native place set in Gujarat, birthplace in Mumbai, Nimish Makvana truly carries the best traits that come with each place.

He has the values from Rajasthan instilled in him by his father, Manubhai Makvana and grandfather, his keen mindset made famous by Gujarat, and his passion for life coming from Mumbai. Nimish is

3rd among siblings, younger to brother and sister, Daxa is married to Jitendra .

He remember his mother, late Dahiben M. Makvana, who has given him cultural roots, but he has lot of praises for his brother, Kirti and bhabhi, Harsha. Nimish consider them as father and mother, they have encouraged him in all walk of life.



*“There is no substitute for hard work. Be honest and true to yourself, and keep a positive mindset. Be adaptive to change as the world today is changing fast.”*



He moved to Dubai as his Brother was settled in Dubai and after completing his articleship, even before he could complete his Chartered Accountancy and be qualified. His knack of qualification resulted in him working extra hard to make his way in life, as well as in his love life as he had to wait for his in-laws' approval, smilingly he says.

Soon after reaching the UAE, he joined Crowe Mak where he is still working as a senior partner after rising through the ranks. The founder, Dr. Khalid Maniar and Zayd Manair, has been his guide and mentor ever since the start and he “owes every professional achievement to Dr. Khalid Maniar.” It was under Dr. Khalid Maniar's guidance that he completed his Chartered Accountancy and took his next steps to give back to his professional community. “It was on his advice that I decided to contribute to the Dubai chapter of the ICAI where I started as a sub-committee member,” he shares.

He retired as the chairman of the chapter eight years later, only to join and contribute to the Indian Business & Professional Council as first elected President and the

UAE chapter of the Institute of Directors as an Honorary Director.

On the mention of contributing, he talks about the historic relationship between the UAE and India, and how the Indian community is respected and accepted by the government and locals alike for their contribution to the growth of the country. “The Indian community has done a lot for this country and the initiatives taken by the government for the Indians show their gratitude and respect,” he mentions.

A very successful man, he has always believed in the values given to him by his father. “I have always trusted myself, motivated myself, and kept faith in God. I believe in doing the best in everything with integrity and honesty with focusing on the results,” he shares his magic mantra.

A believer in karma, he stresses the importance of taking care of self and one's family as success is not only professional but personal as well. A perpetual learner, he believes everyone has something or the other to offer and he doesn't let go of an opportunity to learn.





Despite being a busy man, he strives to strike a balance between his work and his family. He credits his wife, Neeta Makvana, as being his strength and support in his every decision.

A Chartered Accountant and a professional banker, vivid sport enthusiast, always ready to help all community members, like Nimish, she is very actively involved in fitness and loves playing badminton and squash. Nimish, Neeta and their

daughter Simran make sure the entire family eats healthy and stays active.

This gives him chances to spend all the time he can with his family. "It is difficult to get much free time, but whenever I get, I prefer spending it with my family and going for walks, runs, or to the gym, as fitness is very important for our family," he shares.

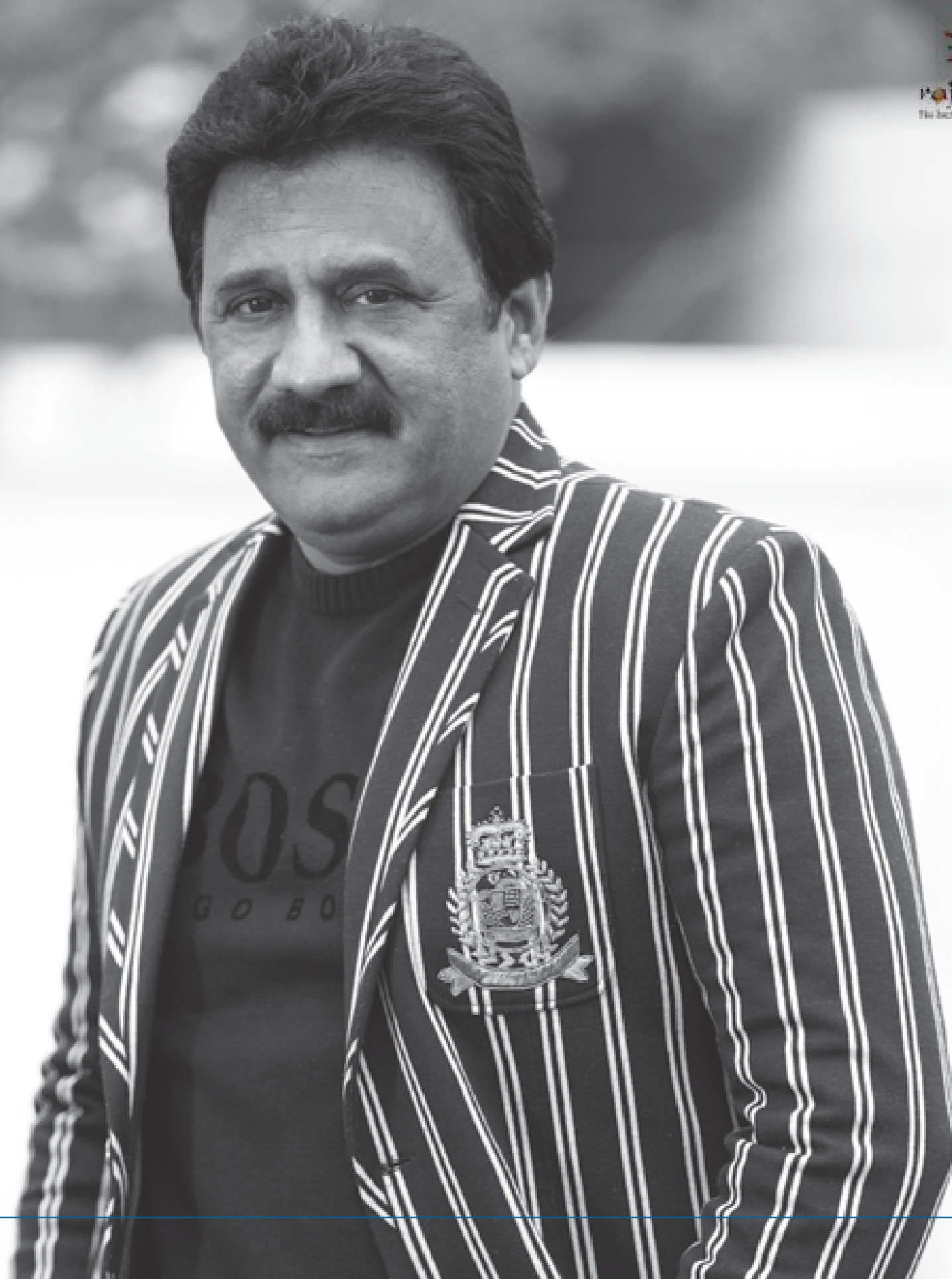
Even though both, Nimish and Neeta have been born

out of Rajasthan, they hold their roots to the princely state dear to them and miss the culture and colors very much. "The bond that is shared with relatives there cannot be replicated here," he acknowledges.

Having tremendous experience, he shares a few pearls of wisdom in his message. He says, "There is no substitute for hard work. Be honest and true to yourself, and keep a positive mindset. Be adaptive to change as the world today is changing fast."











# Jindadili

*that's what* life is like

RAJEEV BHARGAVA, Business Advisor & MD, Alpha MEA General Trading LLC

It is said that one should work smart, not hard, and that is exactly the story of Rajeev Bhargava, an out-of-the-box thinker. Born in an education valuing Rajasthani family, he got the best of education which sowed the seeds of creativity in him from an early age. Always active and involved in creative activities in his school and college days, he made his habit of being creative his biggest asset in life.

In his job in Indore as a headache medicine salesman, he had his first breakthrough. His idea of selling the over-the-counter medicine in villages led to a nation-wide campaign launch for the same medicine, supported by the government. “I was awarded as Best Creative Salesman of the Year, and that award only encouraged me and strengthened my belief in creative thinking,” he shares.

Always hungry for more knowledge, he went to Kanpur for his MBA. Soon after graduating, he got a job in the tire industry but ended up moving to the automobile industry, to Kinetic Honda, after spending a little over half a decade.

“The company was stressed and the share of competitors was quite large, so I suggested bulk selling to government institutions,” he provides insight on his second major breakthrough. Soon after, he felt stuck as he saw no spark. As luck would have it, tyre industry came back from S Kumar textiles, planning. Being a new player in this market, he used his tested idea of going to villages again to sell tyres. “The brand name got stuck and the idea became a success. Owing to it, I was made Head of Sales,” he shares. After this, he felt like having a new challenge and decided to expand into international markets.

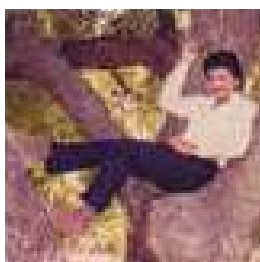


*“One cannot achieve something just on the basis of books & knowledge, creative and clever thinking is very important. It is about how smart one is and how well can one improvise,”*



Armed with his fearless attitude and creativity in thought process, he started with the Sri Lankan market for exporting tubes for tires. Soon he had managed to scale the Indian exports of tubes from four containers a year to 100 containers a year.

When talking about Dubai, he calls it the best place to live in India. In his witty sense, he describes how everything in Dubai is impacted by the Indian community. “Indians living in the UAE take pride. If Indians have given to the UAE, then the UAE has given back too,” he says.



He helped to expand in Far-East and Middle-East, even reaching Poland and Brazil. “It was a matter of national pride that we made India number 1 in the world for tubes in quality and sustainability,” he shares proudly.

The way he has lived his life, he has just one message to pass on. “One cannot achieve something just on the basis of books and knowledge, creative and clever thinking is very important. It is about how smart one is and how well can one improvise,” he imparts wisdom. He feels teaching while learning is more necessary than just learning, as it is the way of giving back what you learned.

His journey from Indore reached Dubai when he started handling the operations in the Middle-East and most of Asia region.





*“Sharing with my family keeps them involved and I can keep that balance,”*

Attitude is what describes his magic mantra, as even if he was someone else, he “still would be the same person with the same attitude,” in his own words. This attitude has helped him maintain a healthy work-life balance as he keeps a positive attitude about everything and keeps his family involved in his day to day working. “Sharing with my family keeps them involved and I can keep that balance,” he mentions.

His wife, Minnie, simply adds that people should live and let live, as she has lived her life made “fairytale-like” by her husband, her pillar of strength. Minnie who is basically born in Punjabi family from Jabalpur, her father was into civil services, which made her move

from various locations of Madhya Pradesh then to Africa, Being a religious person she believe in “KARMA” that what she passes on her daughters – “Be good. Do Good”. For her Interior Decoration is a hobby. Minnie and Rajeev both complement each other, both have lot of praises for each other. She call herself as a “satellite” for her family.

Rajeev’s message to people of Rajasthan is to stick with their heritage and culture, being warriors and fearless.

When talking about the culture of Rajasthan, he gets a little emotional remembering Manuhar, a way of Rajasthan he misses dearly, along with food of course.





# Adding *value to* global society

RAJESH SOMANI, MD & CEO, Swiss Singapore Overseas Enterprises PTE. LTD.

*“Longevity of any organisation is decided by its values and ethics.”*



Hailing from a middle-class family background, Rajesh Somani’s story isn’t the usual ‘small town big dreams’ one. Born in Pali, Rajesh moved to New Delhi after his graduation to pursue his CA.

Following conventional norms, he joined LN Bagur’s Textile Mills as an Accounts Officer in 1986 but his major break came through three years later when he joined the renowned

Aditya Birla Group becoming one of the youngest General Managers in Accounts and Finance at Indian Rayon, Veraval (Gujarat). Credit to his talent, he was asked to migrate to Dubai to head the branch of Swiss Singapore, a brand that witnessed an increase in its revenue by more than 125 times since 1993 with strong team of more than 100 professionals globally in 20 countries covering all 6 continents.



*“Dubai has grown due to the vision of the leaders here. Similarly, your dreams, cultivate your vision & vision with commitment convert to your success level.*



Always a bright student, being active in sports and extracurricular activities, he still had to recognize his own potential. “I was not interested in contesting the class representative elections in my college, but my friends pushed me. I ended up winning by a landslide & also became member of Student Union in college” he recollects.

That was not the last thing he won, as his journey from Pali to Dubai saw him get the highest individual honor as an “Outstanding Leader Award” from Aditya Birla group chairman Mr. KM Birla in 2009 and “Asia-Pacific Entrepreneurship Award” in 2018 and the first Member of the Year award by ICAI outside India.

“Dubai was small & growing city when I came here. Just a few landmarks surrounded by the dessert on all sides. It feels like I have grown as Dubai has grown,” he talks reminiscing. “Dubai has grown due to the vision of the leaders here.

Recognizing his potential, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group given him global responsibility of SWISS SINGAPORE Overseas Enterprises (International Comodity trading company of group), now having revenue of more than USD 5 billion.

He was told to follow the law of the land and not to compromise with values for profit and that’s where it all started.





Being a professional who loves his work, he also strives to maintain a healthy work-life balance. He takes regular vacations with his family and has even completed the Char-Dham yatra in India with his parents. He also takes evening walks with his wife, Varsha Somani, as she shared herself. “We have covered almost all major cities in all six continents, and whatever is left, is on our radar,” he shares with pride. In their free time in Dubai, the Somani family participates in weekly card-playing get-togethers with their group and even enjoy picnics / outings from time

to time. He defines himself as someone who is a nice blend of a learner and a leader. “Time changes extremely fast in today’s world. You need to keep learning to stay active. If I personally stop learning, I can’t lead anymore,” he shares. He is not authoritative like a boss but likes to be a mentor. His wife also shares the instance where they both learn from their children as well, when they lack knowledge about something in which their children are experts.

“My message to people from Rajasthan is just that if

Dubai can grow so much without having drinking water or resources while being a desert, so can Rajasthan. The people there are hardworking and skillful, they only need to have a correct big dream & visionary to guide them.” While wishing growth for Rajasthan, he gets nostalgic about the things he misses. “The warmth of the place and the zeal of celebrating festivals with colors cannot be duplicated,” he mentions. Varsha joins his thoughts and adds on by mentioning the rich food from Rajasthan that is dearly missed by the entire family.

*“Balance is the essence of life.  
No amount of your business  
or professional success  
can compensate  
your failure at home.”*





# <sup>A</sup>globe-trotting analyst

SUBHASH BHANDARI Managing Director & Group CFO. ARMS Group



“I had humble beginnings, but I would forever cherish my childhood; it was inundated with daily mischiefs with friends, local sports and merrymaking,” Subhash Bhandari reminisces about his childhood days, though he was an obedient and disciplined child.

Brought up in Jodhpur in a warm and vibrant culture, Subhash has come a long way since then. While his high-profile job as a CA and finance advisor took him places, from India, HongKong, Middle East, UK & France, he still affirms the importance of sticking to one’s roots.





*“Take life as it comes; cross the bridge when you have to cross it.”*

“Rajasthan is known for its valor, colorful, humbleness; any Rajasthani shouldn’t get bogged down by the West, they must retain their originality wherever they go,” he says. His voice exudes pride in his heritage when he talks of his native city and its people. I also miss my family and friends back home and the whole aura of festival and colors of Rajasthan,” he narrates.

Talking about his professional journey, Subhash’s real professional journey started with Unilever, where he worked for over two decades. It was his job at Unilever that allowed him to live in various diverse countries and embrace a whole corpus of cultural diversity. Subhash is a vocal advocate of work and life balance. He often holds open discourses with his subordinates

as well about the importance of balancing professional as well as personal life.

“If you are not allowing yourself free time to spend with family and friends, you cannot deliver professionally either,” he says, and his decorated career is a testimony to that.

He also is a staunch believer of the time-honored adage — “Take life as it comes; cross the bridge when you have to cross it.”

Today, he is enjoying a tranquil life with his wife, Vandana Bhandari, a post-graduate in Commerce & certificate holder in French and Spanish language, very warm & social person, widely traveled and lived with multiple nationalities and cultures. Together, they have espoused a perfect blend of Dubai and their native

country. “I am a perfectionist house-maker,” Vandana says jovially. When she talks about her transition from a small-town to the globe-trotting life, “I, sometimes, miss the smell of the Rajasthani soil during rains, she extols the immense support she got from her husband.

Their kids have studied abroad in many countries and both together with their spouse are from Rajasthan and have strong cultural roots and values of their mother land.

Daughter Preksha and Himanshu Bafna (son in law): Preksha studied in many countries and son in law is MBA from USA. Both working with facebook in USA. Son, Prateek and Sneha (daughter in law). Both live in London and working with multinationals.



*“When rest of the world didn’t come here, Indians came here to walk together with the natives to achieve those results,”*



She also stresses on the importance of keeping in touch with her kids, “I am with them every time whenever they need me; I always make sure everyone is okay in the family,” she says.

When talking about the contribution of Indian natives to Dubai, he was quick to point out how Indians are in fact indispensable to Dubai. “When rest of the world didn’t come here, Indians came here to walk together with the natives to achieve those results,” he says.

However, he believes that it is a two-way succession and he exults in the fact how native UAE populace has embraced the Indian community like their fellow brethren.

Apart from his financing job, Subhash talks about the possibility of one day owning his own firm or doing something on his own independently. “Who knows, will probably do it one day,” says Subhash.

**A Brief:**

Results-driven senior business leader with finance background and proven track record in both foreign Fortune 500 and Asian multinationals as well as local conglomerates across diverse industries from Consumer Goods, Commodities, Packaging, Electronics, Real Estate, Cement and Chemicals/Fertilizers.

Mentor and leader for multicultural teams to develop local talent in different geographies. International exposure in France, United Kingdom, Middle East ((UAE, Oman, and Saudi), Hong Kong and India.

Driver for cost effective operations. Excellent partnership to provide business insights for decision making under uncertainty

**Specialties:**

- Strategy, planning, budgeting and controlling
- Market development and growth strategies for new market and product penetration
- Information systems and performance management
- Decision support analysis and modeling in innovation and capital projects
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Business risk management; Treasury functions
- Supply Chain – buying, distribution and logistics.
- Corporate Governance Policies and Procedures.
- Group Consolidation and Reporting







# Liaison *with the* legalese

VIVEK AGRAWALLA, Partner & Head of India Practice, MAA Law Firm



*“Live life as it comes.”*

Vivek Agrawalla, a seasoned lawyer with ancestral roots in Churu, Rajasthan, is a resident of Dubai for more than 6 years, and has experienced a diverse and fulfilling life.

As known for his legal acumen, Vivek is equally known for his contribution to various socio-economic groups in the community. Vivek has many publications on diverse

legal topics to his credit and he is a regular speaker at various forums.

“I graduated from the WB National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, one of the most coveted law universities in India, which implicitly helped me build a core value-base required to thrive as a lawyer” he narrated.

*“My school education was centered and deeply rooted in morality and virtuous living which has shaped me as the person I am today.”*

Like a true Rajasthani, taking risks seems to come naturally to him, and that is why he chose his law school which was then brand new with a temporary address and he was part of the very first batch. Being part of the first batch helped him to see closely and be part of building of a great institution, and this had a profound impact on his personality.

He further recalls that law was not a great career choice at that time and he did not have any close relative or friend who was into legal profession.

However, he went for this for the love of the subject and inspired by the legendary law professor Dr N R

Madhava Menon who passed away recently. He considers choosing profession of law as one of his best decisions of life.

Vivek's mother, a highly spiritual person, has been a huge inspiration for him and they share an almost divine relationship.

Prior to moving to Dubai in 2012, Vivek practiced law in Kolkata and Mumbai. He had the pleasure of briefing top legal minds of India including Mr. Harish Salve, Mr. Rohinton Fali Nariman (now a Hon'ble Judge of the Supreme Court of India), Mr. Arun Jaitley, Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Mr. Mukul Rohatgi.

“My life, by and large, is of thorough contentment, but I would have loved to be a criminal lawyer; to don the lawyer's robes and cross-examine an astute witness”, he expressed with a serene countenance.

Other than small wishful thinking, Vivek doesn't believe in pondering over 'what could have been' and 'what would it be like'.

He likes to exult in the veins of “live life as it comes”, which is apparent by looking at his cheerful visage. It seems that Vivek was born with an innate and an unassailable reliance of a lawyer.





In spite of not so encouraging economic environment at the moment, Vivek smelled opportunity in Dubai, and recently started his own legal practice in collaboration with a promising Emirati advocate, Mohamed Ali AlHammadi.

Vivek is sought after by his clients for his dedication and an eye for details. Vivek is admired by his clients for his pragmatic and business oriented legal solutions. A visit to his office clearly depicts that his practice is already thriving and he is all set to go to the next level. Vivek believes that his biggest asset is his clients' trust in him.

On personal front, interestingly, Vivek met his wife for the first time while on the way to the Kolkata airport while migrating to the UAE! His wife, Dr. Seema Agarwal, a Pathologist and Director of a laboratory of a reputed clinic, is a dedicated professional who manages her time between work and a toddler with equal ease.

Vivek & Dr Seema are firm believers of finding the right balance between work and family, and they love to spend time with their cherubic little baby. "I don't let my professional engagements get intertwined my personal life," says Vivek. Dr. Seema's beliefs resonate

with her husband, "My baby is very small and I love to spend time with him."

Both of them derive strength from each other and face day to day challenges of life smilingly. Together, they have built a concrete abode in a country which was erstwhile foreign to them. That said, it was considerably easy for them to feel a sense of belonging in the UAE, a country which is well-known for its amicableness towards Indian diaspora.

According to Vivek, "it is, without a doubt, a great time to be an Indian in Dubai". There are times they miss India and its colours, traditions and chaos.







Rajasthan  
The Jewel of India

Pearls of  
Rajasthan  
in UAE



# A disciplined learner *of time*

MAHENDRA GODWANI, Managing Director, Preview Group of Companies



*I am happy and proud that in the year 2020, a very important year for the UAE, the Preview Group will also reach another milestone, its 15th founding anniversary. My team is the greatest asset, strength and backbone of my business. I sincerely appreciate and value each employee's hard work, extra effort, concern, dedication and loyalty which reflect the core values, mission and vision of our company. The team's commitment to our goal is second to none, which inspires me to grow better than ever, with more innovative thinking every single day.*

“When the going gets tough, the tough get going”. If anyone has proven this statement to be true, it is Mahendra Godwani. After losing his father at the tender age of three, he and his family survived through the support of his uncle Mr. Jai Kishan Godwani. The latter helped him in his studies and the family to establish a startup. He was groomed to

handle the business, thus, the responsibilities made a man out of him. The daily grind taught him the value of time and work ethics at an early age. In 1996, by the motivation of his uncle Mr. Tikam Das Godnani and mother, he came to Dubai for a job interview with Mr. Pradeep Menghani. It was the jumping board of his Gulf career.



*“I owe all my success to my elders, particularly my mother.  
Their wisdom, guidance and blessings have molded me to who I am now.”*

After nine years working in the same organization with his professional growth on consistent upward trajectory, he started his very own company, Preview LLC, in 2005. “There were two major turning points in my career. First was coming to Dubai when I got my first taste of hard work. Second was putting up my own firm and watching it grow, especially for the first five years. Whenever I saw an opportunity, I did not hesitate to grab it,” he also happily remarked that he was blessed and thankful to have his cousin Bharat Godwani as a great business partner since day 1.

Despite all great achievements in life, Mahendra’s feet remain on the ground, humble and grateful as ever. He always remembers his roots, sharing these

moving lines -- “I owe all my successes to my elders, particularly my mother. Their wisdom, guidance and blessings have molded me to who I am now. I honor them all.”

He loves his work so much that even if he would be given a chance to do anything else, he would still choose the same work and life. In 2011, he launched the company’s own brand, “Premax”, and focused on IT and electronic products.

The value of hard work which was instilled in his mind after experiencing many struggles in life, helped him to get through. For him, that is his magic mantra. His words are inspiring, “Work hard and know that there are no shortcuts in life. I have believed in this,

and I have lived this.”

Fast forward to now, he is very optimistic with the new opportunities and policy landmarks being introduced by the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that attract investors to set up and expand sustainable and profitable home-grown businesses. Mahendra has all praises to the visionary leaders of the country and he attributes the speedy growth and development of the global business hub to this.

Despite his busy schedule he sees to it that there is a proper work-life balance. He highly gives importance to family and personal life. Mahendra creates time to be with his family, gets involved in sports activities or organizes family events with his business team.





*“Its good to be futuristic, but we must look back where we came from and stick to our roots.”*

His wife, Jaya, on the other hand, loves singing. A highly spiritually-inclined lady, she always reminds their two sons, “It is good to be futuristic, but we must always look back and stick to our roots.” When we visited them at their home, we saw their very disciplined, polite and humble boys, which reflected how they were properly raised by their elders.

Mahendra said that Jaya “is the boss at home” while at work he is the Managing Director. He quipped, “She has been very supportive to me, and our relationship

is a give and take one. She listens to me as I do to her. I give her all the respect due to a wife, so I do whatever she says that will be good for all of us. A happy wife means a happy life.”

Describing himself as a learner, he acknowledges that he has such a great hunger to learn more and that there is something to be learned every single day, both at work and at home. Over such a period of time, by learning he has evolved to be an exemplary leader to his business team, family and community.

When the home state of origin, Rajasthan, was mentioned, Mahendra could not help but miss the good taste of local foods, the good views of historical forts, and yes, the winter, something he does not experience in Dubai. His wife Jaya missed the cultural festivities and family gatherings for fun. With humility, she asked for blessings and good wishes from the people back home. They always remain engraved in their hearts no matter how far destiny may bring them.





# Business *on mind,* tradition in heart

MOHAN DAS GURNANI, Chairman, JMTC, VETO Group

*“Juban pe Shakar aur Dimag pe burf yeh business me aage badne ke liye jaroori hai”*



Just based on talent, success was not achieved as it lacked hard work and dedication. Mohandas Gurnani son of late mother and father Yashoda Devi and Rewachand Gurnani, is the living proof of this.

Starting from his father's electrical goods shop in Jaipur's Nehru Bazaar, Jai Electricals, to being the Chairman of the Gurnani Group, he has

achieved everything based on his hard work and dedication along with his sharp business mind. Having his roots in the pink city of Rajasthan, he had a knack for business since a very young age. At a young age of 17, he started managing the trading business with his brothers, and six years later established a factory RG Cable Industries in Jaipur and started manufacturing wires and cables.







Owing to his hard work and exemplary vision, the company grew in leaps and bounds to become one of the highest tax-paying electrical companies in Rajasthan.

A little over a decade later, his hunger and vision led him to expand the operations out of India, starting with the UAE where Jaipur Electricals was established. Along with expanding around the globe, he also expanded inside India with an export-oriented unit in Jaipur and another manufacturing unit in Haridwar. Today, Jaipur Electricals is one of the top 5 electrical companies in the UAE, named Jaipur Electricals L.L.C. Now the operations are in 120 Countries

Veto Switchgears and Cables Limited went public and came up with an IPO. “VETO” a well known and established brand in India, U.A.E, GCC and African countries.

Being a successful businessman, he puts his customer first and strives to earn the trust of every single one of his clients. “We may have business on our mind, but we have compassion and tradition at heart. So the quality of

products is of utmost importance to us because that is what matters to the customer,” he says.

Apart from having a giant presence in the electrical industry, he is also a notable player in the hospitality industry managing multiple luxury establishments in Jaipur. In 2012, Radisson Blu Jaipur commenced operation, one of the most preferred 5-star hotels in Rajasthan. It’s a luxurious high end property developed by Gurnani Group. They are also coming up with Boutique Hotel at Tonk Road Jaipur, Hilton Hotel a 5 star Hotel in Malviya Nagar, Jaipur

Knowing the value of giving back to society, his philanthropist side led him to establish the Yashoda Rewachand Gurnani Charitable Trust, in the name of his parents. This trust provides food and shelter to more than 100 families. Apart from this, he is involved in numerous charitable activities like running a Sukh Suvidha Kendra having a banquet hall, yoga center, and an Ayurveda center which is also working as “OLD AGE HOME”, along with organizing mass marriage events in 2018-2019 where 25 couples were blessed.

He believes in fairness and working in support, hence he readily acknowledges the support given by the UAE government to the Indian community. “The government has been upfront in their support to the Indian community and we are grateful for their continued support,” he says.

This belief in fairness is also implemented in his business. He believes “fair dealings, humble speech, and cool temperament are key to win the affection of everyone you work with.”





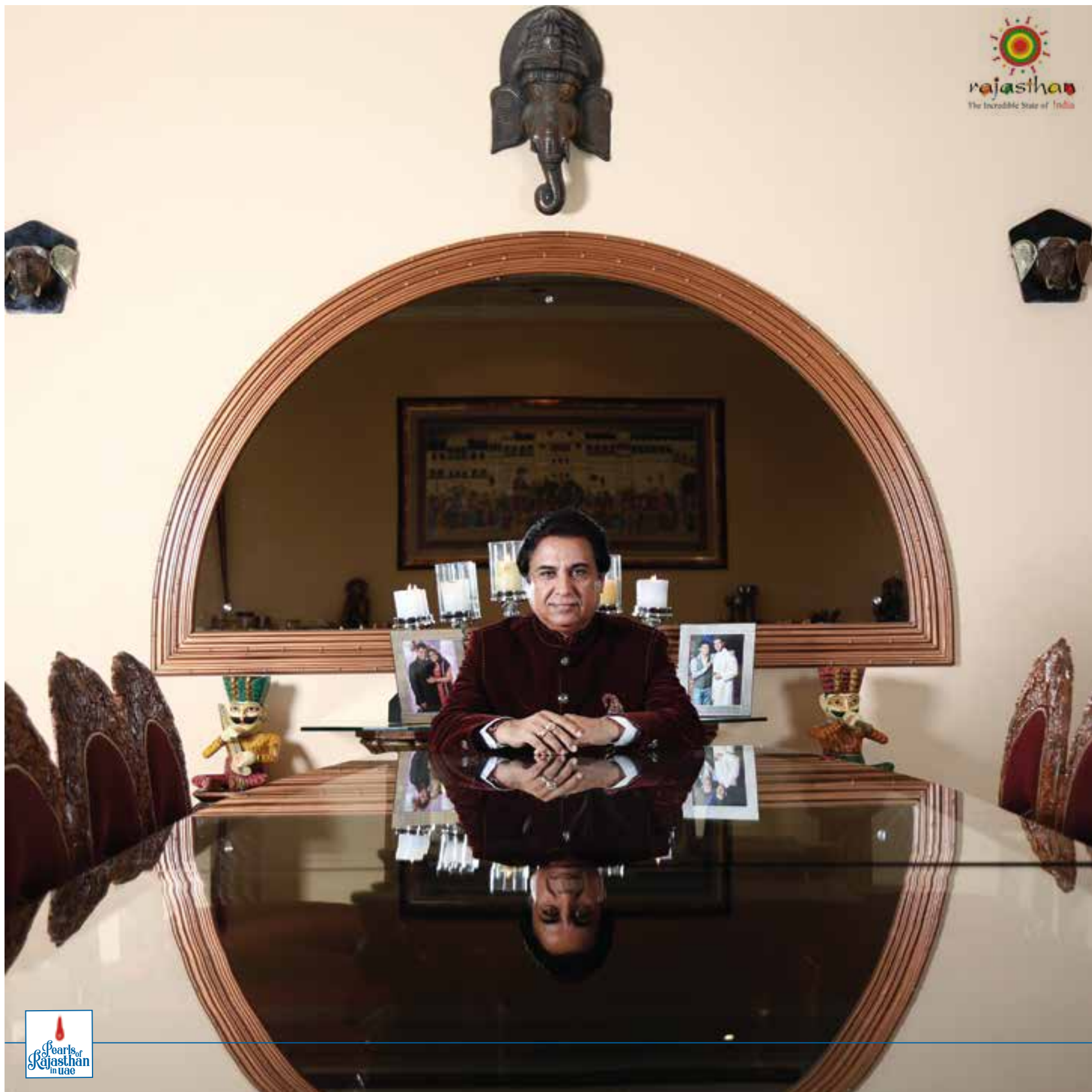
Being so heavily involved in his business and the society, he does not forget the importance of striking a balance. “Even if I am working 16 hours a day, I make sure I find time for some exercise. I prefer yoga and playing badminton now and then,” he shares. He dreams of writing an autobiography and hopes to spread the message of hard work and inspire a generation to work with dedication.

Being a loyal Rajasthani, he has endless love for his home state and city. “I named my company after my hometown, what more proof can there be,” he quips. Despite visiting the city very often, he and his wife, Renu Gurnani, miss their roots and the culture of the princely state. “I aim to develop Rajasthan as one of the most sought after tourist destination and want to see this aim become a reality,” he says. Not believing in retirement, he wishes to leave the mortal world with his boots still on.

“जब आदमी घर छोड़ता है,  
तभी वह जीवन में कुछ पाता है”









# An icon of humility

PRADEEP MENGHANI, Group CEO, Quality Gulf Co. LLC



"Quality Group Headquarter of 85,000 sqr ft in DIP-2 in Dubai"

Pradeep Menghani rose from humble beginnings and reached the pinnacle of success through sheer hard work. He never let this become an obstacle in his quest for success and despite everything proceeded to work for his goal. As a result, he completely turned his life around since he came to Dubai in 1977. While his father was involved in a government secretariat job in Jaipur-India, his mother was a motivation to him. They also had a small factory of Ink and washing powder production with brand name of "QUALITY" & "PIREX", which brings the business roots. When he first stepped foot in Dubai, the simple

job in the Choithram supermarket group to warehousing to managing a supermarket of his own and his career has been quite an interesting ride.

He was with Mr. Choithram whom he often referred to as "Seth," made him aware of the technical know-how of the industry. Where he learned a lot from him, gives a lot of credit to his mentor Mr. Leelaram Kewlani ji (Director of Choithram) as a huge influence who taught him to be punctual and sincere towards his work for success.



*“My strength is my father and my family”*

Pradeep also given lot of credit to business head of Choithram, Mr. Lal Ganwani (currently owner of Lal’s Group) to teach most of business ethics, relation management and faster decisions making techniques. After serving Choithram group more than 17 years, he moved to Shankar Supermarket group due to his mentor Mr. Leelaram Kewlani, CEO of Shankar Trading, where he jointly worked with Mr. Shankar Lakhiani and Mr. Vashdev Kewlani and from one supermarket he made a chain of supermarkets with name of GIANT supermarkets. He grew strength by strength and today he has his own empire with his brothers, where he is the CEO of the Quality Group.

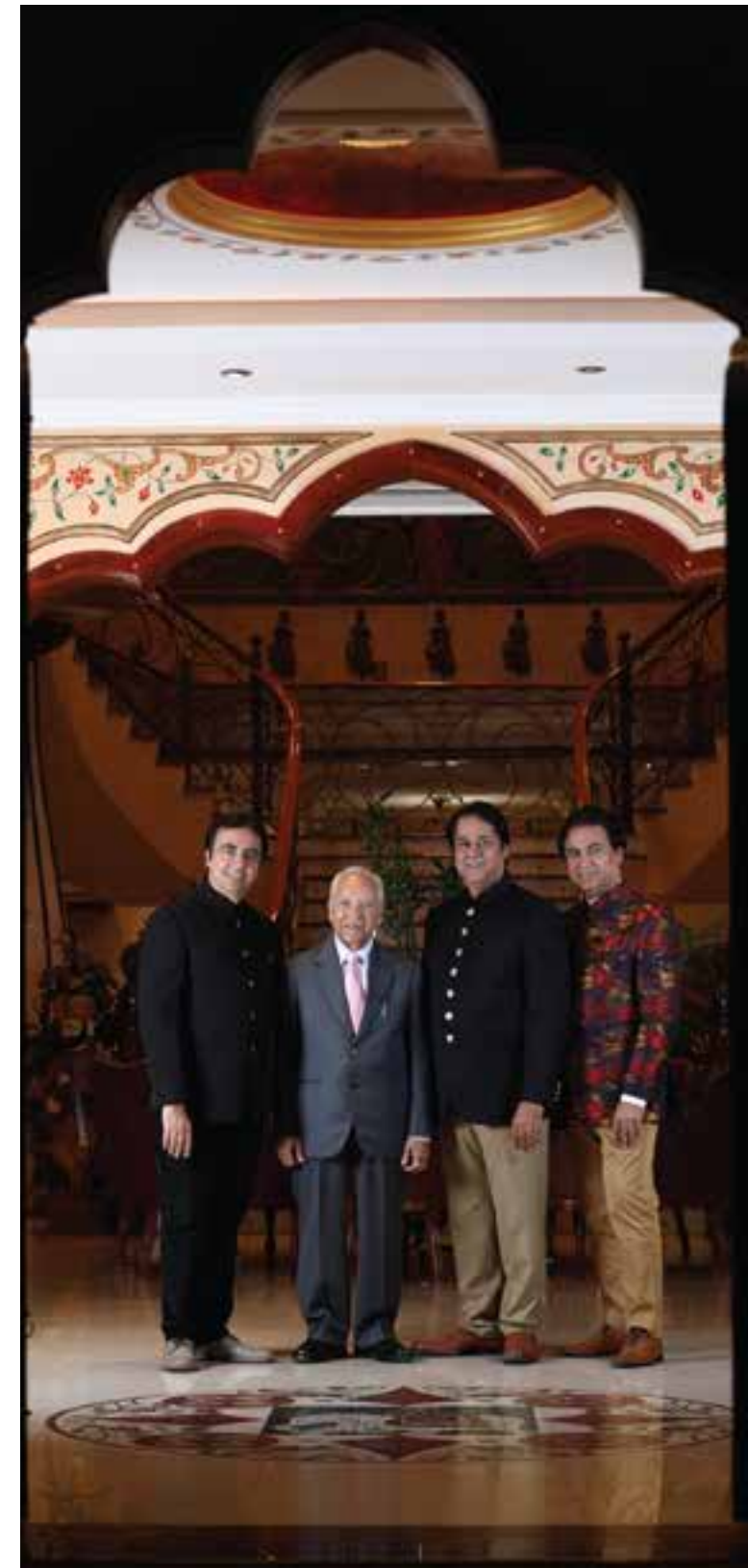
Being grateful to all the people who have helped him along his journey, following his mentor’s philosophy, he also believes in being a leader rather than a boss.

He has also taken the role of “Guru” for his employees and does not shy away from sharing his knowledge with them. He brought his friends and family members along with brother Sunny Menghani and later Vasant Menghani also to UAE.

He also talks about his early days in Dubai and recalls how the enthralling city once used to be quite ordinary back in the day. Throwing light on his struggles when it came to adjusting in a new environment altogether, he says, “I used to feel so hot in the daytime that I had to come out of my house and so cold in the night that I had to go inside again.”

According to Pradeep, HH Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum had been the ultimate driving force behind the development of Dubai that started in 2001. Moreover, he commends His Highness for the inclusivity and support that he provided to the Indian community. It was because of this acceptance of Indians in Dubai that Pradeep was able to bring his whole family there.

Today they have a big beautiful villa in Dubai which looks like Amer Fort of Jaipur where they all lives together with their family with father & brothers. Furthermore, he makes sure that everyone in the family dines together daily, and talks about things that matter, gives this credit to his father, who to him is a greatest soul of today’s time.





*“One should go extra mile to find the best of everything.”*



His lovely wife, Jyoti Meghnani, is a housewife and has been managing the house for as long as she can remember. When Pradeep married Jyoti in 1981, she stayed back with his family in India for 6 months to understand family culture and family relations with all relatives which played strong bound.

During this time period of half a year, she learned all of his family traditions from her mother in law. “It helped her immensely in understanding family culture and bonding with each other over time”, says Pradeep. 6 months of leaving apart from husband with mother in law, brothers, grand father and mother made her a strong family member who care for each one in family and relative.

Pradeep has always been a family man and always strives to help his family & friends in any way he can, whether it is to help them build a career or for any

other matter. Also, he doesn’t hesitate to walk the extra mile by helping his relatives set up a business of their own.

Pradeep and Jyoti Menghani have three kids – Shalini, Ravi and Vinay. All are married & happy. Ravi runs a footwear business called Andy Enterprises. Vinay heads company’s HR division and Shalini is married to Mitesh, they both work together for electronic and games export business.

Pradeep especially salutes the Rajasthan community in Dubai because people who come from Rajasthan work harder and are not affected by any kind of weather.

Being of the opinion that it is a lot harder to make money in India, he invites his fellow friends from India to work in UAE, where hard work is recognized and duly rewarded!





# Live *life to the fullest*

SUNNY MENGHANI, CEO, Quality Computers LLC

*Winners never quit and quitters never win*

Sunny Meghnani, a successful businessman in the field of IT, has a fairytale story of the small town boy making it big in the big city. Hailing from Jaipur, he moved to Dubai at a tender age of 17. "I have spent more of my life in Dubai than in Jaipur", says Sunny while pondering about his journey.

Always taking life lightly and not getting too serious, Sunny considers being calm, funny and cool as his biggest strength. "I saw the struggle in my initial couple years when I moved here

in 1983, but after that life went with fast pace, that I can't recall any significant struggle moments,"

Sunny reminisces. His elder brother being the only support at the time when he moved, Sunny had nobody else to rely upon and had to make it on his own.

"My biggest achievement was getting a driver's license here in 4-5 months, which takes around 2 years normally. That was like getting my degree," he says while recalling his early days.





*"UAE has given us every-thing.  
We are where we are because of the UAE.  
Hard work and luck is there,  
but the place has given us a lot",*



Not even having a mattress to sleep upon when he moved and living on extra sambhar at a nearby South Indian restaurant, this happy go lucky man has come a long way to have life to cherish in Dubai.

Professionally, Sunny started working in Proctor and Gamble, where he stayed for five years, growing professionally over the period. "Almost everyone used to move to either USA or Australia from within the company after an amount of time, but my younger brother "Vasant loves me a lot and wanted me to work together in IT Business "Quality Computers" which started growing," he adds. Together we started large level IT wholesales business, concept of " All under

one roof". This attracted GCC & African buyers and Dubai image increased in IT buying destination.

Skilled in the art of mixing with people, Sunny describes himself as "being like water", that mixes with everything.

He also owes his growth as a businessman to this quality of his, as a business is nothing but making ties with people, according to Sunny. He thanks his hard work coupled with his luck and blessings from elders for his fortune. But this does not mean that he feels no gratitude towards the place where he struck gold.

"UAE has given us every-thing. We are where we are because of the UAE. Hard work and luck is there, but the place has given us a lot", credits Sunny.

On being asked about his connection to Rajasthan and what he misses, the foodie in Sunny simply replies, "I miss the food.

I keep visiting Rajasthan every 3-4 months and spend my first two days just eating everything from there. Kachoris, samosas, lassi, even chai. Our Rajasthani look Villa in Dubai is a replica of Rajasthan, which should be enough to give an idea of how much I miss my home town".







*“Human nature is like water.  
It takes the shape of its container.”*

Sunny idolizes his grandfather, from whom he picked up his people skills. "My grandfather was an entertainer and all friends and relatives even unknown people always get attracted towards him, which I took these features in my nature.

Nobody left his place without a smile on their face", says Sunny remembering his grandfather. Even his family values are owed to the cool nature of his grandparents, who emphasized on never keeping score in a family.

He also mentions that keeping those words as his guide, he strives to keep his family close-knit and that is what makes him get up every day, and food of course. Namita Meghnani, Sunny's wife is an essential part of his efforts. Being from the same city, same area and same street as Sunny, she is the go-to person for the children in the family.

She is also the Master Chef of the family, as the sole reason Sunny and Namita got married was her cooking skills.

A caregiver and an amazing cook, Namita hold no malice in her heart and is a pure soul like her husband. Always she happy to serve new and innovative recipe to each one in family.

Keeping the values going and never having to worry is what keeps the Menghani family happy in their mini Rajasthani Villa in Dubai where Sunny family lives with father & brother's families together.

Their daughter Juhi is an entrepreneur, doing jewellery business and married to Mayur Sajani and son Varun who is chef and working in USA and soon will be coming to UAE to serve with his classic innovative recipes.



# TOUCHMATE®

No.1 Brand in UAE & GCC



TABLETS | SMARTPHONES | ALL-IN ONE PC | GADGETS | HOME APPLIANCES | LIGHTING | SCOOTERS | LAPTOPS

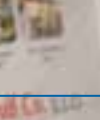
Bollywood Brand of UAE



Bollywood Stars of



wards





# A Quality music of conscience

VASANT MENGHANI, Founder & CEO of TOUCHMATE (Quality Gulf Co.)

*"I am blessed that God gave me both Jaipur as well as Dubai."*



"Vasant Menghani" is thankful to Dubai for his business success, as well as to his native city, Jaipur. He achieved humongous success all the while embracing the culture and society of both the cities DUBAI & JAIPUR. He feel blessed that he born in pink city of India - Jaipur which is best & Dubai is best for Business.







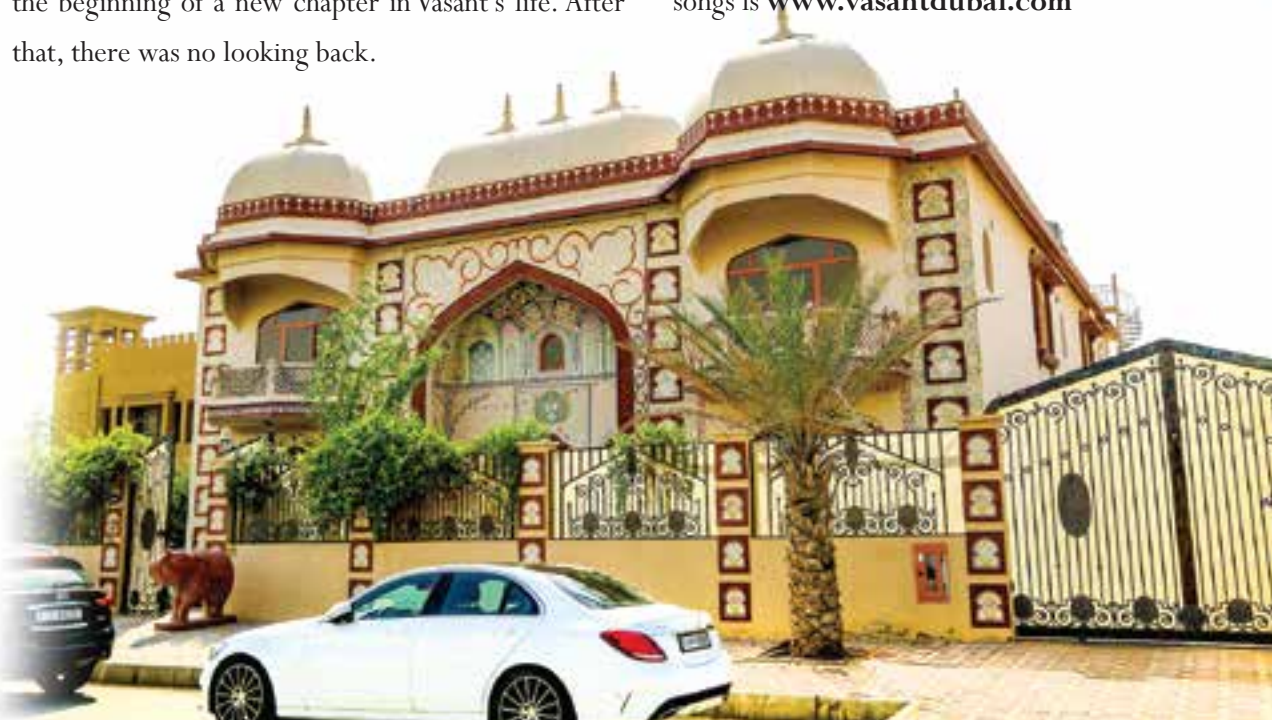
*Vasant is a brand creator, IT ecosystem builder, motivator & a great singer who is always ready for giving back to society in various manners*

He came to Dubai 30 years ago in 1988 and singlehandedly established an IT company called “Quality Computers”. He took his company to emboldened heights by creating a brand called TOUCHMATE. Today, TOUCHMATE is a well-known IT brand of PC, Notebooks, Tablets, Gadgets in Dubai, GCC, Africa, India, Turkey, Hong Kong, China, UK and other European countries. Timely many IT showrooms opened in UAE and made a QUALITY GROUP of companies.

He realized he had reached an unparalleled boundary of success when he started to enjoy the patronage of clients such as Carrefour, Lulu, Emax, Landmark, Jackys, Sharaf DG, Axiom, Home Center, Emirates Airlines, Air Arabia, ENG and Partners Like MICROSOFT, Intel, Epson, APC, Licensee partners of Warner Bros, Hasbro, Disney, Universal, Marvel, Rovio. He doesn’t believe in spearheading a company with an iron-clad fist. On the contrary, he is one of those men who are the paragon of humbleness in the victory. In his own words, “I am neither a leader nor a boss, I am but a motivator & initiator”.

Vasant was bachelor student of science and want to be a Doctor but journey of nearly a decade required to become a surgeon. Vasant do not want to keep his Mother away from his family in Dubai, so he decided to go quick for 2 years Computer courses rather long 11 years medical study. With in-depth IT knowledge to try his luck, he started his 1st IT Company with name of “Quality Computers” in Dubai in 1989. It was the beginning of a new chapter in Vasant’s life. After that, there was no looking back.

“Singing is his passion”, with many qualities of business & leadership, It may come as a surprise, but Vasant is an excellent singer as well, who has sung in Bollywood with melody queen of India “Alka Yagnik” and soon will record song with legend singer “Asha Bhosle”. He planned to launch his 1st songs album in 2020 with most famous bollywood TOP singers. Currently his Bollywood name is “VasantDubai” and website of his songs is [www.vasantdubai.com](http://www.vasantdubai.com)







Moreover, Vasant is a man of great contradictions and many facets, and most importantly a man of unquestionable gravitas. As gritty he is in his professional life, he is equally soft in his personal life.

He reminiscently talks about the time he relentlessly courted his wife- “Sweety” a science graduate. “She is one of the driving forces behind my success; an absolute inspiration,” says Vasant, his eyes brimming with sheer adulation. Not to miss their great dramatic Love story of their initial journey of they got married. Vasant explained his love story when he was age of 9 and sweetie was 8 yrs. Timely when they grow, his engagement was on hold due to no source of income. He was hurt and decided to make so much money to get her in any case. His devotion towards achieve his Love is remarkable and today all his success seen openly.

Sweetie, thanks god for everything from childhood till today, she is the smiling face of Menghani family.

Their elder son “Karan”, doing business of Arabic footwear -FARADA & opening showrooms all over UAE and soon most of Gulf countries. His younger son Tej, is studying Business Management and Finance in Boston University, USA.

He also repeatedly credits his parents, brothers who helped him all the way till today and most importantly grandparents for his great success. It was his grandparents and parents who imbibed a sort of social responsibility and virtuous ethos in his mind, which transformed him into a man of principles. He said, my grandfather given me a mantra. “When you stand in front of someone, he should like you from his heart”. This mantra changed my entire life to be a good person which bought success all the way in my life.

When asked about the contribution of the Indian community to Dubai, he was quick to point out that he loves Dubai and believed to pay back to society

with something unique action and devotion. He started “Dubai Shopping Festival Concept” with implementation in Computer Street with joint support of Dubai Government in 1996 and today it is biggest world known shopping festival of Dubai. He created IT Ecosystem in Dubai. 1st PC Assembling factory in Al Aweer with 5000 pcs production capacity. He started computer parts wholesale concept where all GCC buyers come to Dubai to shop rather go to Taiwan n Singapore. Vasant created a world class IT brand called TOUCHMATE which is brand of UAE to the world and started PC in supermarkets concept and a new selling method in retail sector. TOUCHMATE was started fast journey in retail thru CARREFOUR. It was WOW factor for all IT industry and buyers.

Vasant also former business head of Dubai Computer Group, Gold Partner of Microsoft & Unique achievement of became Intel Board of Advisor.









# Struggle is a root of success

ASHOK SIROYA, Director- Siroya Jewellers LLC

*“When you apply positive thinking you prevent yourself from falling into that downward spiral where you don't think things will ever get better.”.*



A man who sees learning as a never-ending process has already found his path to success. This is perhaps best embodied by Ashok Siroya, the Managing Director of Siroya Jewellers in Dubai.

Ashok comes from Pali District. From roaming around on golden sands to now owning a business in the golden

country his journey has truly been full of milestones.

His story begins in Bali where in the year 1961, he was born to a family that had 7 elder brothers and 4 elder sisters before him. It was until the age of 21, that he absorbed the rich culture and humble values of Rajasthan.

*“Road to success is full of hard work- but with a few mistakes and determination, it is possible to achieve every dream”.*



Being the youngest in a family of fourteen, Ashok had learned the art of sharing and teamwork right since the beginning. Life goes full circle and even though he is an acclaimed business tycoon in a different country, he goes back to his village just to stay connected to his roots. Of course, the flavors of Rajasthan are also one of the biggest reasons that take him back twice-thrice a year.

Coming back to his journey, Ashok has pretty much seen it all and learned from whatever life threw at him. It is often said, that the road to success is full of hard work- but with a few mistakes and determination, it is possible to achieve every dream.

At the age of 21, he came to Mumbai to pursue his graduation. Here he did not waste a single day and started up a business with his partner. He was quite

successful in it as well. But, it was in the year 1979 that the diamond business suffered too much and he had to embark upon a new journey altogether.

After having a big setback by the partner in UAE, Next phase of his life got him to Dubai- where he started up the Siroya group with his brother Dheeraj and nephew, Chandu. Dubai wasn't the economic wonderland that we see today.

The development of the Siroya group was in tandem with Dubai's growth. The tough times hit Ashok in the 90s when their Dubai based partner backed off. They separated and post the first debacle of shutting down the garment factory- Ashok undertook this challenge of starting a gold jewelry business in his stride too. He Praises the UAE rulers and government for their unbiased support to all.





Today, Ashok is a proud husband of a companion — Lalita who came here with him from his village. He is a proud father of two sons who are both graduates of the American University of Sharjah.

His daughter is put up in Mumbai, where she is associated with her husband who is a diamond merchant.

One of the best things about Ashok is that he is connected to his roots very prominently. He has taken a keen interest in the development of his state. He says the simplicity of Rajasthan is unmatched.

He is also of the opinion that even though it Rajasthan has aced the tourism aspect, there is a lot of potential for industries here. The industrial development is somewhere masqueraded in the rich and vibrant environment.

Ashok's understanding of the world is also profound. He looks up to his elder brothers and respects them a lot for the support they have provided him. His earlier mentor was eldest brother, Bakhtavar Bhai. Then the time is his mentor, takes every employee as a part of family.

He also says that the young generation needs to take a step ahead when it comes to understanding their elders. Sometimes, elders speak from experience. If the younger one needs guidance, then communication is the key to find the suitable midway. A mix of experience and enthusiasm would surely help. Misses the simple life and food of Bali, Rajasthan- always dream to spent time with people over there.

To that effect, we see Ashok is full of both and we truly hope that his group expands with each passing day.





# The Journey of a Cosmopolitan Jeweler

CHANDU SIROYA, Managing Director, Siroya Jewellers LLC  
Vice Chairman Dubai Gold & Jewellery Group



Elegant in his style, and eloquent in his speech, Chandu Siroya is a global citizen at his heart.

Born to a joint family in the small village of Bali in Rajasthan, Chandu shifted to Mumbai at the age of five.

Chandu's father Shree Dheerajmal B Siroya resided at Andheri,  
where he was running a segment of the family business.





In 1974, his father shifted to Dubai while Chandu remained in Mumbai with his grandmother, till the time of completing his graduation. Looking back at his childhood evokes a conviction in Chandu that “joint families are always good fun”.

He remembers spending the summer holidays in the village home, playing with his cousins and their joy overwhelming the tremendous heat of the Rajasthani summer. If there is one thing that he longs for, it is to relive those glorious days.

After graduating, Chandu worked in one of their helicopter companies in India for about half-a-year. In 1983, he shifted to Dubai and worked in the construction industry for a year. Leaving that job, he joined his family’s jewellery business and has been into it since then.

As an individual, Chandu is an embodiment of positivity. A forward-looking man who never asks life, “why me?”,

but always says “try me”. Being a pragmatic individual, he realizes that life is simple as long as one doesn’t complicate it. Simplicity, honesty and clarity of thought have led Chandu on his path to success and he preaches the same to others around him.

He is a Team player and is always grateful to God for giving him an excellent team at the office which enables him to devote some time for business and social groups.

Although he misses the family gatherings in Rajasthan and looks forward to having those more often, Chandu feels that the UAE is his second home, as it is to most Indians who reside there. “UAE is a fantastic place”, says.

Chandu, for one, is elated by the thought of having spent his life in a place where there is “a fantastic sense of consideration for other people’s values”. In his opinion, this inclusiveness is what sets the UAE apart from all other nations.

*“I love to make friends and want to be a good friend to everybody”*







In the same year that Chandu migrated to Dubai, he also married his better half, Anita Siroya. She has acquired a Master's Degree in History, to which Chandu gladly says, "She is more educated than I am". Together, they have raised their daughter and two sons.

Distributing his loyalties among his family, work and friends, Chandu leads an active life which befits a leader like himself. He is also a highly social man and harbours a passion for attending events or conferences or, for that matter, any other place where he can meet new people.



He says, "I love to make friends and want to be a good friend to everybody". In the time that remains, Chandu likes to watch movies.

Despite never actually residing in Rajasthan, Chandu misses the childhood days spent in his village. In his heart, he feels an immense reverence for his fellow Rajasthanis, especially for their valour and the way they respect their women. He also feels that every person in the world must be acquainted with the humility and honesty inherent in the soul of this western Indian state.





# Value yourself by valuing your TIME

GHANSHYAM S SAJNANI, Managing Director, Shree Traders

*“Time is free, but its priceless”*



With eyes full of dreams, a heart full of courage and mind set to take his father’s business to new heights. Ghanshyam S. Sajnani migrated to U.A.E in 1979.

Working day and night for four decades in the textile industry, he has accomplished his expectations. Today, what was once a small textile retail shop in Al-Ain, now has two textile wholesale shops in textile market. Some of his staff are almost from 37 years since 1982 , “they are like family” with his catchy smile he illustrates.

Ghanshyam also has Stallion Bespoke, Restaurants and Les Nereides in Dubai Mall and Mercato Mall Dubail.

His business partner is his brother Gordhan S. Sajnani.

The success mantra hasn’t come easy. Ghanshyam’s disciplined life, his respect for time and other people have brought him where he is today.

He also gives lot of credit to the rulers of U.A.E.

While one would except a man of his stature to have given all his time to work. Ghanshyam pleasantly denies the assumptions.





To him, his family has always been important and he owes a big part of his success to his family who've stood with him through thick and thin. As a family man, be it any birthday, anniversary or any festival in his house, he ensures that each and every member of the family is present to celebrate and rejoice together. He says that he does not give even a single thought before postponing work trips when his family needs him.

His favorite time of the day is when he and his wife go for their routine drives after dinner. That is the time when he feels that his relationship with his wife is rejuvenated. He also mentions that they go on weekly all-family get-togethers too.

Shortly after he arrived in the UAE, he married his better half, Lalita Sajnani in 1986 and brought her to Dubai. Lalita jestingly calls Dubai as "Little clean Bombay" and

further talks about how as a result she has had no problem in settling down in this erstwhile foreign land. It comes to no surprise that she seldom misses Mumbai.

Reminiscing about her Mumma (mother), she says that if there was one thing her Mumma had taught her, it was to never let your past define your future.

Her philosophy was to never be stubborn and think what you know would always be correct. Her Mummy (Mother in Law) taught her to be understanding and receptive of new and different perceptions she also recalls what was told to her "do from what you have and progress accordingly". It is only because of that kind of thinking that she now manages her home wonderfully as a homemaker, after giving up her dream of starting her own business.



*"Personal or business, I prefer to give time equally".*



She is grateful and exults in the security that her husband provides her and compares it to the shade that a tree provides in the scorching heat - and stay with in “Thandi Chhav”!

Now she wanted to give a chance what was her incomplete dream to Reya, wife of her elder son Mayur to start a business of Costume Jewelry, a franchise from Paris, her other kid is Kashyap working in Croatia.

Notwithstanding their affluence and success, Ghanshyam and Lalita remain unflinchingly true to their roots and morals. Born and

brought up in Jaipur, Ghanshyam misses the immense hospitality, the warmth in the people, and the unmatched food of Rajasthan. Recalling how he and his “gully gang” used to skip college lectures to watch movies or play cricket, he couldn’t help but smile at all the wonderful memories.

Ghanshyam believes in the philosophy that learning is a continuous process, which has no zenith and no ending point. He himself abides by this philosophy and is always eager to learn the new developments in business that his children suggest.







# The Perfect *worklife* balance

GORDHAN S SAJNANI, Director Shree Traders

*“Time is money, spend it wisely”*



Gordhan Sajnani, a melting pot of resolve, humour and devotion, was born in Jaipur to a family of businessmen. Gordhan’s father travelled to the foreign land of the UAE in 1969, hoping to brighten the fortunes of his business.

Nine years later, having completed his education in his hometown, Gordhan was required to cross the borders

and join his father’s business. For this first time ever, in 1978, Gordhan travelled to Al Ain and worked there at one of their retail outlets until 1984.

Gordhan recalls that there were no direct flights connecting his homeland to his destination. So he flew to Dubai, where he covered the remaining path by the road.



*“life has become competitive over the years”.*

After 1984, Gordhan ran another retail store at Meena Bazaar, before shifting to the wholesale business in 1989. Since then, he has devoted his life and soul to the betterment of this business that his father so lovingly established.

Having spent more than four decades of his life running a textile business in the UAE, Gordhan feels that, “the level which Dubai has achieved today is greatly because of a lot of contribution by Indians”. In fact, in his opinion, it is not only the Indians but rather the people from the entire sub-continent, including other asian countrymen.

Figures like Gordhan have been witness to, more or less, the entire trajectory of social, political, as well as, cultural changes undergone by the Gulf nation in recent times. In his reminiscence, he speaks of how

the near-barren, desert land transformed into a bustling international trading hub. As if being the two sides of the same coin, a massive social life has evolved, filling up the earlier void, while “life has become competitive over the years”.

Banking on his lifelong experience, Gordhan has adapted to dealing with the “seasonal nature” of business in Dubai, as well as, the overall ups and downs of life with his brother Ghanshyam S Sajnani, they both together ‘walk the talk’.

As an expression of his indomitable resolve, he works towards ensuring cent per cent business in the “six active months”. Recovering all his expenses during this period, Gordhan needn’t worry about the low tides in his business during the month of Ramadan and also during the festivities of the Eid.



Treading alongside in his journey is his wife Maya Gordhan Sajnani who is a family woman in the truest sense of the time. Born in Jodhpur, she was raised by her aunt in Jaipur. Marrying in 1984, Gordhan and Maya have been blessed with a son and a daughter, both of whom have started their own families now.

Both Gordhan and Maya, accord the highest possible regards to the idea of a family. In fact, Gordhan feels that treating the staff like family is an essential quality which a leader must imbibe.

Life has treated the Sajnani family quite well, yet, they miss Jaipur's kite-flying ceremony on the occasion of Makar Sankranti. Alongside, even though Rajasthani food is available in the UAE, they feel that "the taste is never the same".

To every Rajasthani, Gordhan reaches out with a message of unity and love which, he believes, are the cornerstones to success.







# Stitching *the success with* imaginations

PANKAJ JAIN, Managing Director, Super Galaxy Trading

*“No Journey is easy  
You have to make it enjoyable, easy and meaningful”*



Gems are always found in dry soil, Mr Pankaj Kumar Jain, a man of his own fortune. A triumphant in life, saw his first soil in Parsola, a small town near Udaipur, Rajasthan. His father who had been a winner in professional front was pompous about his son. Giving him free will to pursue a lucrative career was always his

way of showing openness. Pankaj being an obedient and a brainy son always knew to dig his path. After completing his cheerful school days in Rajasthan he took a step out, and completed his diploma in automobiles. Initially, Pankaj had started his small business in Udaipur, and took a beautiful step of marrying his wife Vinita.

*“We have to do everything now, sometimes later, becomes never”.*



It was a bright summer day, when Pankaj was busy winding up his day earnings; his father called him to inquire his daily routine, but could read monotony of life in his voice. It was then, when Pankaj’s dad proposed him to shift Dubai. His dad was sure that the new business plan that he wishes to execute in Dubai, Pankaj was the appropriate inheritor. He had always been a strong believer of his life mantra “Your limitation—it’s only your imagination.”

With change of numbers in years Pankaj and his family grew both professionally and personally. Pankaj is now a proud dad of two kids, elder son Joshal is pursuing engineering in London and the younger daughter Bhakti is pursuing her studies in Banagalore. Pankaj, the jovial man in the house, has uplifted his wife Vinita, to be a smart and influential partner who wishes to be an entrepreneur.

Though Vinita has been brought up in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, but has an unsaid attraction towards her in-law’s land, Rajasthan.

Pankaj is happy to share his hands with his cousin Ronak who is an active participant in his day to day business.

The cherry smile of Pankaj reflects his sincere attitude towards his professional and personal life. Ronak sees himself to be an active learner from different spheres of life and a part of him is still back in his home town.

Both Pankaj and Ronak are ebullient and at the same time hard working to continue success parody of Pankaj’s dad.







Pankaj has a strong determination to do something for his land that could leave a shine of its effect for ages to come. And he believes “sometimes later, becomes never”. While packing his bags to shift Dubai, Pankaj and Vinita, had promised their motherland to keep its substance alive in their family. They are proud of their success in cultivating culture in their kid’s.

Like any Marwari family who had dragged their taste towards modernization, Pankaj feels a gap between Rajasthan and his family. To ensure the flavor remains fresh, he visits his home town once in

every few months. Though his business schedule keeps him engaged, but he knows the rule of balance very well.

It is his modesty that made him a successful business contender and a satisfied dad. With the righteous turn to his story, he wishes peace and prosperity to all the families looking ahead to make UAE as their second home. His humbleness is worth praising.

Missing the cultural activities of Udaipur, the parents and all the elders’ blessings, life is in-complete with it.





# An Inspiring *heritage of* humanity

RAHUL KHIMAWAT, Partner, Vaishali Diamonds DMCC

*“Always learn from your grassroots”*



“It is hard to be a diamond in this rhinestone world,” this is a famous quote by Dolly Parton, but only this adage can truly justify the transition of Rahul Khimawat a young boy from South Bombay to the man behind the success of one of the largest diamond and jewellery manufacturing organizations today.

While interviewing with Rahul we found that the humbleness and great attachment not only towards his father, Kishore V Khimawat but also toward the great deeds of his father. Being born in Kurla, in South Bombay, his life is still the reflection of his father’s ideologies and principles.





His father relocated from Khimel, Pali district in Rajasthan to Bombay, in the year 1969. This was indeed the beginning of an era, which melted down to the next generations, in the form of an inspiring story to millions. However, Rahul believes himself to be a learner, who is still taking lessons of life from everything around him. He is youngest among 3 siblings.

Under the tutelage of his father, he not only learned to run a successful business but also recognized his deep love for nature. Despite being a mischievous child, he was quick to keep pace with his studies and was equally good at extracurricular activities, being the gold medalist at cycling and swimming, for three consecutive years. St Sebastian High School, Mumbai will remember him as the captain of the red house, who had great organizational skills and could conduct any event with veritable efficiency.

The values and skills inculcated in his school life are still his driving factors. He credits his school life in turning him into what he is today- a man who knows how to organize and someone who understands the importance of leading from the front. He is a boss because his situation made him so but a leader because people around him chose him to be one. "A great understanding of the importance of being a good leader came from the values ingrained from school life," he pointed out.

Greatly influenced by his father, he makes it very clear that every single aspect of the diamond business has been taught by him. Rahul also indicates that whatever he is achieved, it because of his father. After finishing his school, he was asked by his father to join a diamond cutting firm in Malad.

Rahul and his wife Ekta both are much disciplined with their kids- Aryan and Dev.





Later on, he joined his father's business, where no special attention was given to him because of his position. As all great teachers do, his father strictly instructed him to learn everything from serving tea to the guests to frequenting the banks. This was indeed an exhausting learning experience for him. In the year 2008, after finally shifting to UAE from New York, he got a conducive environment to run his own diamond and jewellery business, with élan.

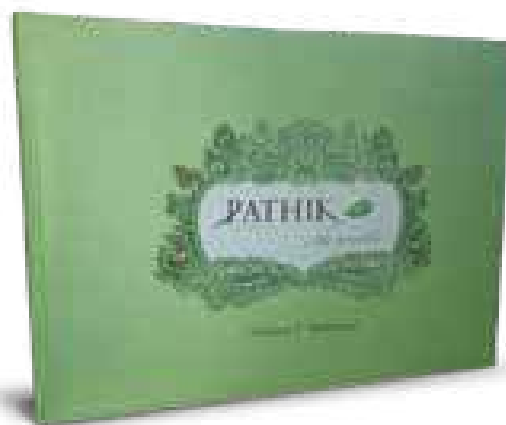
Amidst looking after such a big diamond empire, Rahul has not forgotten his roots and is determined to carry his father's legacy forward. He is involved in his father's dream project of turning Rajasthan green.

One of the greatest influences of his life is "Harit Rajasthan," a very prestigious project launched by his father. The aim was to plant as many neem trees as possible, ( approx 1,300,000) across the entire state, to not only return to Mother Nature but to also maintain the environmental balance.

This has been featured in various Newspaper, Magazines and also covered in many TV channels. There is great respect of Kishore V Khimawat in the Pali Region. Rahul's Family has also released a great book on him called "Pathik"... the versatile. This book talks about the journey of a great legend who devoted his life toward humanity and Environmental

issues. Kishore V Khimawat started, Raj Rajendra Basanti Devi Khimawat trust, which also provides financial help to needy families, feeds monkeys, cattle renovates religious structures, provides employment to poor people, etc.

Rahul's mother Smt. Basanti Devi still devotes her full time in all these activities. Treading on his golden footsteps, Rahul is carrying on with these tasks and is planning to give back to the society in every way he can. Moreover, both Rahul and his wife, Ekta keeping in tune with the benevolent mindset, are also planning to carry on an annual mass marriage ceremony, where they will be responsible for helping poor girls getting married.





पर्यावरण प्रेमी खीमावत की याद दिलाते हैं हरे-भरे पेड़

**पर्यावरण प्रेमी** **खीमावत की याद दिलाते हैं हरे-भरे पेड़**

पर्यावरण प्रेमी खीमावत की याद दिलाते हैं हरे-भरे पेड़। खीमावत की याद दिलाते हैं हरे-भरे पेड़। खीमावत की याद दिलाते हैं हरे-भरे पेड़।

**पर्यावरण प्रेमी खीमावत के जज्बे को सलाम**

पर्यावरण प्रेमी खीमावत के जज्बे को सलाम। खीमावत की याद दिलाते हैं हरे-भरे पेड़। खीमावत की याद दिलाते हैं हरे-भरे पेड़।

**पर्यावरण प्रेमी श्री किशोरजी खीमावत के स्मृति में 'श्री किशोरजी खीमावत रोड' का नामकरण**

पर्यावरण प्रेमी श्री किशोरजी खीमावत के स्मृति में 'श्री किशोरजी खीमावत रोड' का नामकरण। खीमावत की याद दिलाते हैं हरे-भरे पेड़। खीमावत की याद दिलाते हैं हरे-भरे पेड़।

**पाली-गोडवाड़ पत्रिका**

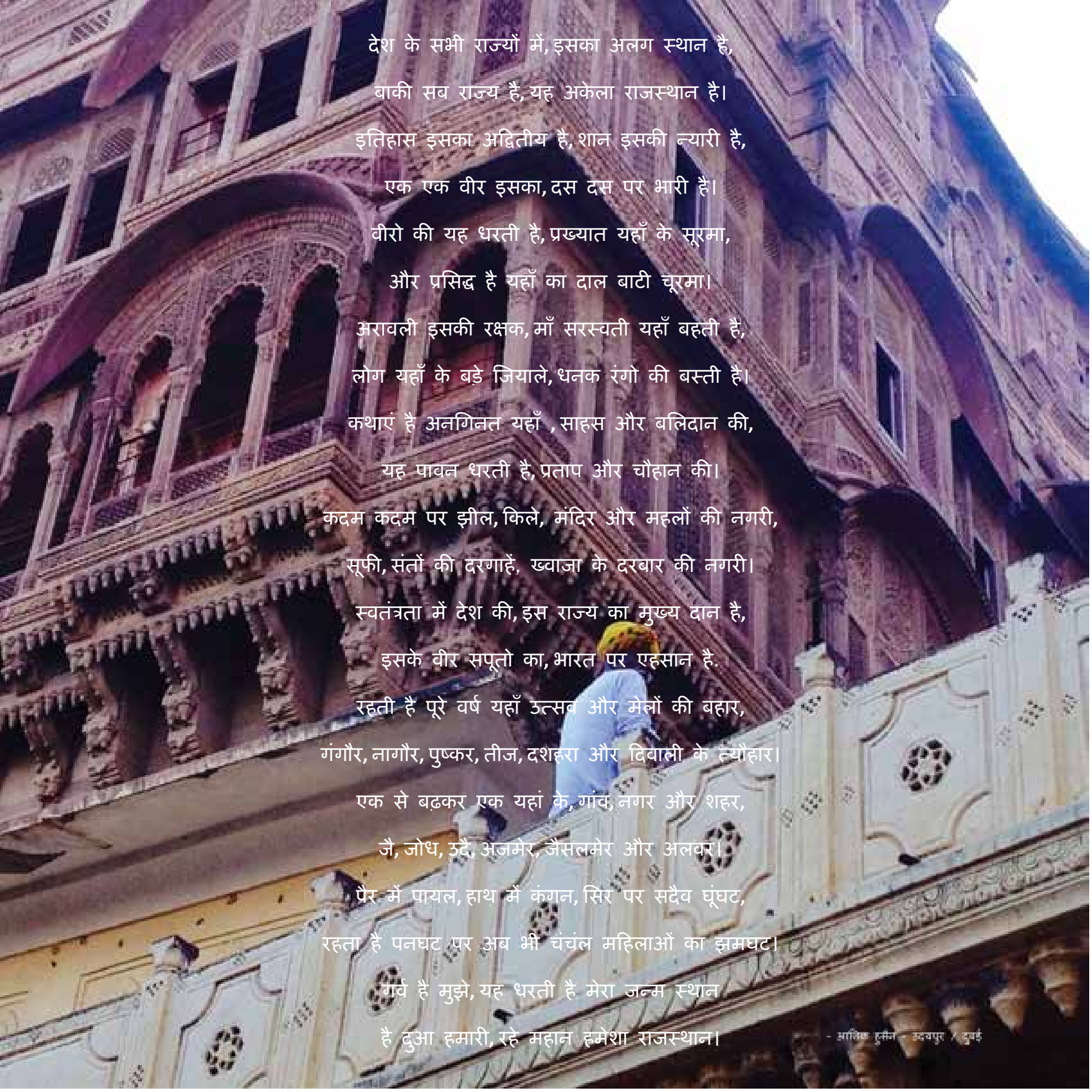
पाली-गोडवाड़ पत्रिका। खीमावत की याद दिलाते हैं हरे-भरे पेड़। खीमावत की याद दिलाते हैं हरे-भरे पेड़।

**पर्यावरण प्रेमी**

पर्यावरण प्रेमी। खीमावत की याद दिलाते हैं हरे-भरे पेड़। खीमावत की याद दिलाते हैं हरे-भरे पेड़।







देश के सभी राज्यों में, इसका अलग स्थान है,  
बाकी सब राज्य हैं, यह अकेला राजस्थान है।  
इतिहास इसका अद्वितीय है, शान इसकी न्यारी है,  
एक एक वीर इसका, दस दस पर भारी है।  
वीरो की यह धरती है, प्रख्यात यहाँ के सूरमा,  
और प्रसिद्ध है यहाँ का दाल बाटी चूरमा।  
अरावली इसकी रक्षक, माँ सरस्वती यहाँ बहती है,  
लोग यहाँ के बड़े जियाले, धनक रंगो की बस्ती है।  
कथाएं हैं अनगिनत यहाँ, साहस और बलिदान की,  
यह पावन धरती है, प्रताप और चौहान की।  
कदम कदम पर झील, किले, मंदिर और महलों की नगरी,  
सूफी, संतों की दरगाहें, ख्वाजा के दरबार की नगरी।  
स्वतंत्रता में देश की, इस राज्य का मुख्य दान है,  
इसके वीर सपूतों का, भारत पर एहसान है।  
रहती है पूरे वर्ष यहाँ उत्सव और मेलों की बहार,  
गंगौर, नागौर, पुष्कर, तीज, दशहरा और दिवाली के त्यौहार।  
एक से बढ़कर एक यहां के, गांव, नगर और शहर,  
जै, जोध, उदै, अजमेर, जैसलमेर और अलवर।  
पैर में पायल, हाथ में कंगन, सिर पर सदैव घूंघट,  
रहता है पनघट पर अब भी चंचल महिलाओं का झमघट।  
गर्व है मुझे, यह धरती है मेरा जन्म स्थान  
है दुआ हमारी, रहे महान हमेशा राजस्थान।

- अलोक कुमार - उदयपुर / दुवाई



# Sticking to the basics

RAJESH KOTHARI, Director, Krishi International DMCC

*“One shouldn’t confine oneself to self-interests only;  
if you take two steps together, the other person will willingly take four steps with you”.*



“Dubai is the land which paves the way for each individual to prosper and flourish in life; the place is like a heaven for businessmen” - Raju has experienced this largesse firsthand.

Raju Kothari is one of the beneficiaries of the generosity that is often linked to the land of Dubai, which is now increasingly being touted as the land of opportunities. Hailing from a small town in Rajasthan, and brought and brought up in Mumbai, Raju is now helming a successful business in Dubai.



*“Dubai is the land which paves the way for each individual to prosper and flourish in life; the place is like a heaven for businessmen”*



His assignation with Dubai started early on, when he was, in his own words — a lively bachelor. That said, his countenance and mannerisms do not seem to be any less lively today.

When asked about the secret behind his high-spiritedness and exuberant nature, he approbates the power of almighty and claims that he makes sure to go to his worship place before starting his daily routine.

After spending over 28 years in UAE, Kothari still reminisces about his native city, Rajasthan. His voice becomes lyrical, if not a little wistful when he talks about the city. “I feel as if all the worries in the world

have dissipated when I enter Rajasthan; there’s just something magical in the land that makes me feel like I can seek solace here” he claims.

He further rakes up the memories of his school days. He attributes modern-age platforms like WhatsApp in keeping everyone together despite being miles away from each other. Although he made light of his school and college days, the love emanating from his eyes was cogently apparent.

Despite having a great adulation for his native place, Kothari seems to be content in Dubai. However, the journey wasn’t always so unfailingly smooth. He had a

lot to learn and much to overcome, for instance, the language barrier. However, his Marwadi vigor was not to be bought down by small, minuscule hindrances like a language barrier.

He overcame it like a pro and is now well-settled in a foreign land, which he along with his family, have espoused as their own.

He is also sanguine about the future of UAE-India relationship, which he believes, tantamount to more opportunities to Indian expats relocating to the country.

One thing that makes Raju different from your regular businessman is his stance on life - he doesn't shy away from putting his family and friends above his business endeavors and meticulously balances his social life, philanthropic work and professional life without a dent in either of the facet.

“Family is my first job; if my family is happy, I am happy,” he expressed with a veritable honesty.

His professional as well as personal life balance is largely aided and abetted by his wife, Shilpa Kothari. She is a momentous figure in his life and the upbringing of their three children — two daughters and a son. Together, with their three kids, they have built an indispensable place for themselves in the UAE society.

While talking about his children, Raju, like a true

Marwadi jestingly yet with a tinge of seriousness, puts in, “I hope my son will take the reins of my business one day”. They also believe in the ethos of supporting others in society.

In Kothari's own words, “One shouldn't confine oneself to self-interests only; if you take two steps together, the other person will willingly take four steps with you”.



*“Family is my first job;  
if my family is happy,  
I am happy,”*









# BIG *name with in* brands

VIJAY SAMYANI Founder & Chaiman, Concept Brands Group

*"Everything is possible. Just keep doing the hard work, and the results will follow."*



"Everything is possible. Just keep doing the hard work, and the results will follow." This saying of Vijay Samyani is to the young generation seeking to get into the global level and achieve their dreams.

Vijay Samyani, 46, the Dubai-based businessman, with the roots in Rajasthan, India, has always been a hardworking and a dedicated man, On his Birthday in June 26' 2019, He became the First rajasthani for the recipient of Golden Visa of UAE.

He was born in 1974, in the city of Ajmer. The child who started working at the age of 10, and was the bread-earner for his joint family after the death of his father and his uncle.

He came to Dubai in 1991, with the help of his late father's friend. Where he got his first job, at Shiba General trading, Meena Bazaar, for pay of 3500 rupees monthly.



*“Bridging the gap between luxury brands and consumer”*



merged with UAE, the currency for trade used was Rupees. He added that Dubai has affected our growth too.

His wife, Nisha Samyani, and mother of their two children, actively takes part in his business, for accounts purpose and is well aware of the business. She was shy in her childhood and has also quoted that her social life has expanded more after marriage. She is a guiding figure to her children. When asked if she is happy with what she has, she said, " I never expected this much. I am grateful for whatever I have."



Nisha Samyani has her roots in Rajasthan. Things she miss about Rajasthan are- culture, food, dance, and everything. One month feels like a memory of a whole year.



When asked about how Dubai has affected him and his family, he answered, "Dubai is the best place for people like me who have struggled in India. Dubai has ease of doing business and it is a window to the world. It has affected the growth of my family and myself. “

Vijay likes to spend his personal time with his family and friends. His family is his strength and weakness.

Vijay never considers himself as an MD or a Boss when communicating with his team. He considers himself as a member of the team.



His opinion on the Indian community's contribution to Dubai is that during the time before 1972 before Dubai

*Dubai has ease of doing business and it is a window to the world.*



*“I never expected this much.  
I am grateful for  
whatever I have.”*



He becomes nostalgic while talking about an incident from his school time. At that time he was not able to buy the photograph of 10 Rs, which was at his school's news box when he was in the top list of NCC in the Ajmer because of the shortage of money.

When asked about his memories of Rajasthan, he said, “I miss my Friends who still live there, the culture and the weather.” He further added “I also miss the Rajasthani rain a lot.” Being in Dubai for more years than that of living in India, especially Rajasthan, Vijay misses the essence of being there. That said, he also believes that Dubai is more of a home to him now.

His story is an inspiration to the youth who want to succeed at global levels and who seek to achieve their dreams. Vijay Samyani is the perfect and a balanced mix of a family man and a businessman.

*“I miss  
my friends  
who still  
live there,  
the culture  
and  
the weather.”*





# Embracing change with grace

VINOD TALREJA Group Director & Board Member

*“I pay close attention to detail and endeavor to understand everything right from the basic level.”*



Jaipur is known to embody the perfect blend of courage and warmth, fighting spirit and the Rajputana pride. It was only fitting that such a place gave rise to Vinod Talreja, a self-made success story in the corporate setting of the UAE.

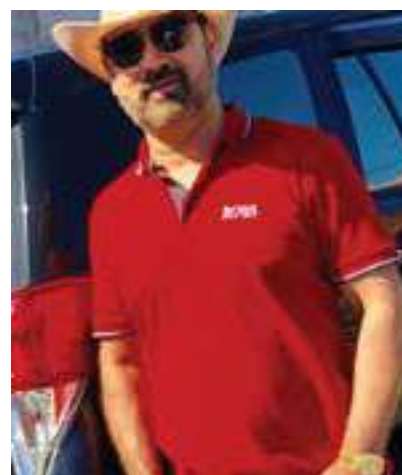
His name is synonymous with the astounding growth story of the Landmark group, but Vinod Talreja reflects

on the career path that began when he was just 15 years old. “I was already a businessman by the time I went to college,” says Talreja.

During the summer break, he worked at a general trading company owned by his neighbor. In fact, at that early age, he was able to impress his employer with his selling skills by exceeding his expectations.



*“I was already a businessman by the time I went to college”*



After his father migrated from Karachi during partition with nothing except the clothes on his back, he had a rough start to his life. With his father busy with work and providing for the basic necessities, he rarely saw his father except for holidays. Despite all this, his childhood was quite normal and comprised of playing with friends and flying kites.

He also shares an anecdote where he worried his entire family by running off with his friends to see an airplane up-close. The simple lifestyle, however, taught him to treat everyone equally, without any discrimination, and taught him the value of hard work and adapting to change easily. He always dreamt to soar high with ideas and determinations.

Work is work nothing is small or big, take it as your religion. In-fact, it were these very qualities which

became instrumental in getting him his first job in Bahrain. “Speaking English was the biggest challenge for me when I was supposed to move to Bahrain. During my interview, I could barely form a proper sentence. This made me want to learn the language in the time I had between my interview and my joining in Bahrain,” he remembers.

His enterprising nature was evident right from that early age, when he started a venture at just 17 years of age, purchasing two high-demand products in Delhi and selling them at Jaipur, taking advantage of the tax differential. However, he discloses that his family had no idea about his entrepreneurial pursuits.

“I was always a risk-taker,” says Vinod, who had already secured a government job while still studying in college. By the age of 21, however, Vinod, who was

bored with the slow pace of work in government offices had made the decision to go to Bahrain.

He joined Landmark in 1982 and now looks back at an exhilarating time of 36 years with the company, later moving to the UAE and continuing to be a core member of its founding team. Vinod recalls that his first year in Bahrain was difficult due to absence of comforts such as air-conditioning and entertainment choices. However, his determination to prove himself saw him continuing there and he now boasts prolific experience as well as exposure across the globe.

He believes his journey is like a mantra for him that motivated him every day to do better than before. “Learning from life and circumstances, and adapting to changes every day, it has been an amazing journey and I won’t mind living it again,” he smiles.







Talking about adaptability, he gives a special mention to his wife, Hina who was born and brought up in Mumbai but adapted with ease into a different lifestyle in Jaipur. Even his kids are instilled with this trait as they have gracefully embraced Indian culture despite being born and brought up in the Middle East.

“Our Indian culture lives in them. We would often take them to India on vacations when they were young so that they understood the value of our culture. Money can come and go, but it is our values that define us, that we can pass on,” he beams with pride.

Their daughter Smriti, who went to university in the UK and France is now working in a strategic communications consultancy in Dubai. “The best learning from my parents is to strive to be the best of oneself,” she says. She has common friends and interests with her brother Karan who is graduated

from a reputed University in USA and has been working since last year with a big consulting company in Chicago.

Passing on more pearls of wisdom, he shares the simple and sweet message of not rushing through life and enjoying every moment, good or bad. “Life has no shortcuts. You will face a lot of challenges in your life, but as long as you adapt to the change, dedicate yourself and love what you do, your journey will go from the bottom to the top. Work hard and be honest,” he advises.

Being a man who loves his hometown and his culture, he admits that he misses the affection and warmth of Rajasthan. Street food of Jaipur is not far behind either and he reveals that he and his wife make it a point that whenever they visit Jaipur, they take most of their meals outside to enjoy every single food item they miss in the UAE.









# Writing

*diversified* stories

BANDANA JAIN, Freelance Journalist, Blogger, Model & Anchor

*“Every morning you have two choices: continue to sleep with your dreams.  
Or wake up and make them happen”*



Born and brought up in the cosmopolitan environs of New Delhi, Bandana Jain is the middle of three siblings. In Marwari families, girls’ education was not given much importance at that time. Despite this, her father, Vimal Kumarji Jain, now a retired finance professional had a visionary out-look for his children. He sent his daughters to a rather

expensive school which boasted of some of the best facilities of her times and even today. All in all, he contributed lavishly towards shaping up Bandana’s personality.

“Variety’s the very spice of life, that gives it all its flavour,” this adage is best impersonated by her.



*“Variety's the very spice of life, that gives it all its flavour,”*



She got her first public-speaking opportunity rather coincidentally. Though her science model was not selected for school exhibition in grade 7, she was appointed by her Biology teacher to explain the models to the parents. Being a very shy child, this was a life-changing opportunity for her. However, she took the challenge happily and delivered the call of duty efficiently. The visitors were very happy with her explanations and this ignited the speaking fervour in her heart, which continues to be in flames today also.

Her husband, Alok Kumar brought her to the UAE and

she decided to do something substantial with her speaking and writing skills. After enrolling into Writers' Bureau College, Manchester for a Creative Writing course, she got her first freelance opportunity from the prestigious Friday magazine, the weekend supplement of Gulf News. Gradually she started freelancing for other magazines, journals and newspapers and also got a call for co-ordinating the editorial board of another prestigious magazine.

Giving equal importance to family life, she did not pursue that opportunity, however she continued

freelancing, doing it almost for seventeen years now.

At this point in time, another opportunity crossed her way. The director of a modelling agency spotted her and asked her to join this industry. Initially a bit apprehensive, she accepted this challenge and has successfully featured in at least twenty commercials, photo shoots, corporate videos, short films and print ads for the last nine years.

Her most memorable moment was to see her own pictures on Dubai Tram, hoardings and print media as a part of Expo 2020 promotion.





The opportunity of donning another hat was waiting for her. She found a new interest in blogging. She started her own blog with reviews on travel, films, food, restaurants, celebrity interviews and lot more. Today, children are approaching her for creative writing mentoring; opportunities to anchor award ceremonies and corporate events are coming her way and she is also judging various debates, elocution and writing contests.

Very few people get as many opportunities in life and she is not only getting them but she has put her best foot forward and has performed the different roles with aplomb. This can be attributed to her indomitable spirit of never say die attitude. Want-ing more from life has become a passion for her.

Considering herself as a pathbreaker, she believes in the adage, “Continue to sleep with your dreams or get up and pursue them”. As she says, family support and the cosmopolitan environ-ment of Delhi and Dubai has been primarily responsible in moulding her to be such a multifaceted personality.

She gets immense support from her husband and her children, Ojas and Maahiya. Right from wardrobe styling and make up tricks, to ways of coping with technology, she finds her mentors in them. Having said all this, her family remains her first priority in every step. Wearing many hats, that of a journalist, a model, a blogger, a writer, an anchor, a judge seems a bit chal-lenging, but she enjoys dabbling in the variegated roles.

Finding deep love in great outdoors, playing badminton and travelling, she also has strong affinity for woman empowerment and making successful personalities out of them. This highlights her sympathetic attitude towards humanity as well.

Her message to present day generation is very clear- Reduce dependence on gadgets and emphasize more on real life relations. That’s the way to leading an enriched and meaningful life!











# *the* Squaring success by yards.

KANIKA GUPTA SHORI, Founder & COO, Square Yards Real Estate LLC

*"If you want to be successful, you have to empower others, making sure other people are better than you are. Then you will be successful."*



There comes a time in everyone's life when an innocuous question makes you sit back and reflect deeply. For Kanika, one such moment came in 2013, when at a party with her husband and friends, someone asked her what she had been doing recently.

Kanika's husband, Tanuj talked about his new job and about the various projects he was working on. And all she could say was, "So, I just had a baby, hence I don't find the time to do anything else." Yes, being a mom of two small kids was a tough job. But, was that seriously what her identity had boiled down to?





*“Beauty has so many forms, and I think the most beautiful thing is confidence and loving yourself.”*

The answer was an emphatic NO. And SquareYards is an extension of the answer, which is today-‘India’s largest real estate marketplace’, catering to the needs of homebuyers and investors across the globe. With 2,000 employees, presence in 40+ cities in 13 countries, SquareYards is now touching USD 30 Million revenues and USD 750 Million Gross Transactional Value (GTV) annually.

Kanika Gupta Shori, Co-Founder & COO of SquareYards, was born and raised in Delhi in a family originally from Abu Road; but she believes herself to be a global citizen. As a young girl, she loved dancing & acting and often participated in various plays. Growing up in a joint family, her home-life was always amusing and full of frenzied chaos; an ethos she brings

to her life with her now. She is an economics graduate from Delhi University & a Wharton Business School alumnus. She started her career working with banks like ICICI bank & Tata Mutual Funds but being a rebel & a dreamer, she decided to quit her well paid banking job & started her career from scratch in entertainment industry in Mumbai.

She moved to Singapore overnight, not to pursue her career but to support her husband. This meant giving up her acting and modeling career in Mumbai, which had begun to gain momentum by this time with her presence in prominent television serials.

Being at the crossroads like most women, she chose to follow her spouse and gave up everything she had built so far. This, however, never extinguished her zeal

to make it big or to stop dreaming.

When her younger son was six months old, she decided to recapitulate her professional life and founded SquareYards in 2014. In the five-plus years since its inception, SquareYards has seen unprecedented growth in the real estate world. As a business owner, Kanika provides an environment which is conducive for the people to grow and succeed in their respective jobs. She builds a strong support system in terms of processes which enable ease of scaling up.

She believes in being a leader rather than a boss and hopes to inspire her colleagues to bypass her expertise someday and bring ideas to the table, which she would not have conceived herself.



She is the only woman in her house full of men which includes her husband Tanuj, and her children Aarav and Arsh, who are now eight and six years old respectively. The elder one plans to Join NASA and the younger one is a football freak. Kanika has created a robust support system and routines, which continue, irrespective of her presence both at work and home.

“I believe that a female leader needs to be far more determined than the male counterparts. Maintaining the perfect balance between work and home responsibilities is not easy. But what I seek from our patriarchal society is to not question me on how I am managing both. I can be the COO and a mother, at the

same time. It is a great feeling to be a women entrepreneur and creating an organization from scratch in a male-dominated industry:, says Kanika.

Kanika is a globe trotter and has travelled to as many as thirty-five different countries. Currently residing in Dubai, she still imbibes her Indian roots and hopes to instill that in her children as well.

A successful business woman, mother of two, actor, dancer, traveler and trained scuba diver, Kanika is the very definition of an all-rounder.

When asked what advice she would give to the youth

she said, “Everyone can be an entrepreneur, all it takes is an idea and the will to follow it. With women entrepreneurs carving out a niche for themselves across the globe, it is high time to realize the significant potential to mobilize the untapped aptitude of women entrepreneurship in India.

It is time for women to realize that it’s absolutely okay to be greedy for their ambitions and to stop thriving on benchmarks set for them by somebody else.

We, as women are not supposed to box up our ambitions or settle on our dreams, but to perceive ourselves as a possibility in the process of becoming a success.”









# Beyond *the limits of the sky*

LEENA PARWANI, Managing Director, LPH Insurance Brokers LLC

*“Every time I faced adversity, I looked at the Burj Khalifa,  
always standing tall. It gave me the inspiration to stand up and high,”*



From getting married right after college and becoming a young mother to child with determination to founding an insurance company and becoming an entrepreneur, Leena Parwani's journey from Bhilwara to Dubai has been nothing short of an inspiring one.



### *“Overcome your fears and fuel your success”*

Dubbing herself as a fighter since childhood, she went from defending her siblings in the street to defending her child in front of the world.

“My daughter developed late because of Down syndrome and she always had to face prejudice from almost everyone around us. I used to cry initially but then I stopped because my child was my first priority and needed me to be strong. I would have even fought my family for her if needed,” she says in her fighting spirit.

Losing her father at 18, becoming a mother at 21,

getting fired twice despite being the best performer and prejudiced opinions, she has been tested by life regularly and she has overcome every challenge with earnesty.

“Every time I faced adversity, I looked at the Burj Khalifa, always standing tall. It gave me the inspiration to stand up and high,” she shares. It was after she was fired twice that she decided that she did not want to work at a place with such uncertainties, which paved her path towards the insurance industry, and she finally found her own company in 2014.

Talking about the magic mantra that keeps her going, she talks about her desire to be the best and work with the best. “It is not about the money, but about spreading awareness.

I lost my father at an early age and I have a special needs child, so I know the value of insurance and these personal experiences help me connect with my clients and create a family-like atmosphere for them.

This is why I work with families having special needs children,” she shares.





## *Plan your life. Live your life.*

Not only does she create a comfort zone for her clients, but she also acknowledges the comfort zone that has been created by the UAE government for the Indian community, especially after all that the Indian community has done to help the UAE reach where it is today.

Learning from almost everything in life, she remains a perpetual learner as she believes learning is very important not only to succeed but to lead as well.

Juggling her company and her two children at home, she accepts that she needs to be highly strict with herself if she has to maintain a balance.

“I have a separate time set for everything, from my meetings, my work, my fitness, to my kids and my home. I keep a buffer time to plan an entire week on Saturdays and I stick to it,” she mentions. She loves a day at the spa or reading at a beach when it comes to her me-time.

As her message to the readers, she stresses that time is important and urges people to not waste time. She connects to certain causes, like the special needs cause, and requests the readers to contribute to the world the best they can.

She also talks about her hometown and mentions that she misses the food, especially Dal Baati, along with the royalty of Rajasthan and the majestic forts that she used to visit as a child.



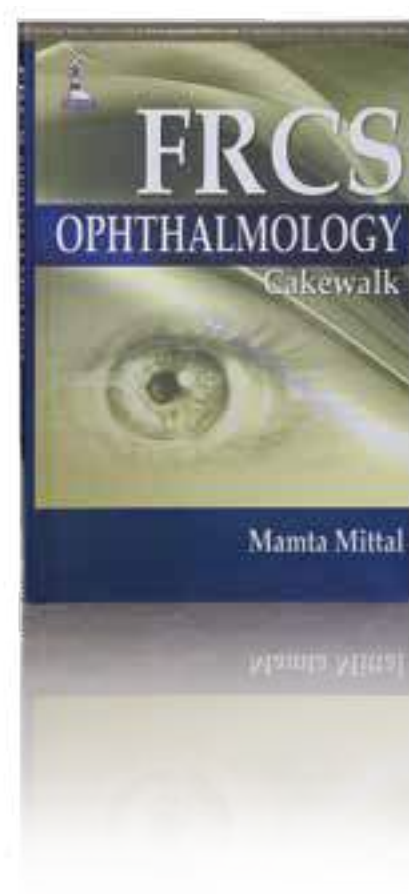




# of an **A vision** *Ophthalmologist*

DR MAMTA MITTAL, Specialist Ophthalmologist

*“I do not like breaking promises. A broken promise means broken trust,  
and I am not someone who breaks trust,”*



Growing up in a time when professions like engineering, medicine or administrative services were popular in India, Dr. Mamta Mittal followed her inclinations to pursue medicine and become an ophthalmologist.

Hailing from New Delhi, she was raised in a close-knit family with her cousins and aunts and uncles all residing in the same city, something she misses dearly living in Dubai in the present. “I will always be thankful to my parents for raising my sister and myself without any prejudice, even in that time period. Their support is what allowed me to pursue my dreams and follow my career path, in India and abroad,” she expresses her gratitude.

Dr. Mamta is an author of one bestselling book on her subject – FRCS Ophthalmology- Cakewalk





Describing herself as a straightforward person, she prefers the same from others. She is also an avid reader and a disciplinarian, especially when it comes to her morning routine, consisting of waking up early for a walk, yoga, and meditation.

Not just her morning schedule, discipline governs her promises in life as well. “I do not like breaking promises. A broken promise means broken trust, and I am not someone who breaks trust,” she states.

Being married to a Rajasthani Dr. Brajesh, she has embraced the culture and the people completely. Talking about the people native to her husband, she says “they are very warm and emotional people.

The community has been doing amazing work, be it in

India or the UAE. They should remain connected to their roots and values, and inculcate the warm, loving and caring nature of theirs into their younger generations. That is exactly what the world needs today, spreading the goodness.”

When talking about giving back to society, she talks about her dream to start luxurious retirement homes in India catering to the parents of NRIs. “When I visited the USA, I saw my mother’s aunt in one such nursing home and she was taken care of so well. They have some retirement homes in India but they are not fully equipped to deal with anything and everything. I want to start something that will cater to end of life care and serious illnesses like dementia,” she explains the motive and reason behind this dream of hers.

*“I will always be thankful to my parents  
for raising my sister and myself without any prejudice,”*





She has so much gratitude towards life for giving her so much. A wonderful family, an intelligent and sincere son Harshal, a beautiful house, amazing friends and relatives, sound health, she is thankful to God for everything and this dream of hers is her way of paying back. In her own words, “That is why the senior living facility is my ultimate goal.”

She is not a person who does not appreciate what the UAE government has done for the Indian expats, but is also quick to point out that the situation is a “win-win” with the UAE also reaping rewards off the work done by the expats in the country. “Indians in the

UAE are doing a wonderful job, be it taking benefits or giving them back,” she says with appreciation.

Mamta loves nature a lot and likes to travel to different places. She tries to meet locals, learn their culture and taste their veg cuisines. She also loves to go to off the beaten tracks and tries to accumulate different life experiences and make memories.

Food is also on the list of things she misses about India. Although a healthy eater herself, she does not mind letting go during festive periods and misses food items like daal Kachori, mirchi vada, moong dal halwa and daal baati.









# An Example of Contribution and Excellence

MONIKA AGARWAL, CEO & Director Artin (Artistic Interiors LLC)



Hailing from the well-known Business family of Bareilly and married to an Architect from Rajasthan, together couple is making it big among the reputed names in the professional world as well as in the community.

The conducive close-knit environment of her family and her grit and determination has escalated her to become what she is today. Born into a joint family, she enjoyed her childhood tremendously. It was a happy and fun childhood for her as every memory is associated with some enjoyment or the other. She feels blessed to have a huge family with lots of cousins and specially celebrating festivals together. For her the utmost importance in life lies is relationships.

When it was finally the time to bid adieu to childhood and soar high in life, her family never became an obstruction to her dream of getting out from a sheltered life and allowed her to work.



Though her family is family of entrepreneurs in Automobile sector, Property Development & Brick kilns yet she was the first girl in her family to move out and work.

She completed her education in Interior Design and in later she went for advanced certification Interior Design, Project Management and Entrepreneurship.

As destiny would have it, Monika along with her husband Asheet and two year old son Gautam moved to UAE in 2002, and she joined Al Habtoor Interiors, mainly into high value fit-out projects than later she worked with H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum's office Design Division (EO) and was involved in many Royal projects. As her passion was in Hotels, she moved to Hospitality Design Company

headquartered in Malaysia and finally in 2008 she started her own firm Artistic Interiors. Now with 24 years of experience in the construction and real estate industry.

Her Portfolio includes diversified projects from The Royal Family, Hotels, Developers, F&B, Retailers, Corporates and Individual Clients with key services as Design, Fit-Out and Project Management.





She is a certified Yoga Instructor, she is passionate about health and wellness industry as she believes that every ill doesn't require a pill, with little difference in life style one can stay fit, healthy and happy.

Her personal time is all about sitting, relaxing and reflecting and knowing more about life as this pursuit never ends. Being very practical about life, Monika believes that work-life balance can never be achieved. Depending upon situations, things will tilt to either of the sides and that has to be decided as per the need of the hour. Her ideology lies in the fact that, one is the architect of one's own destiny, and life is a result of one's own efforts for self and for others.



*“one is the architect of one’s own destiny, and life is a result of the efforts put to shape it.”*



**The Prestigious recognitions include:**

**Features:**

- Her work/profile has been featured in important media such as Property Weekly, Gulf News Tabloid etc.
- Index for Hospitality Design Trends 2017.
- Super 100 Indian women achievers in Middle East & Africa, 2017
- Next Generation of Business Leaders & Young Professionals from India , Middle East & Africa, 2019

**Panel Discussions & Talks:**

- Invited by CEO Club, 2014 as a key speaker.
- Part of panel for Hospitality Design Talks at prestigious Index 2016.
- As a moderator and part of panel (2017 & 2018), IBMC Financial Professional Group.
- CELD: She was a key speaker at the Center for Economic & Leadership Development (CELD), Nigeria's Forum on African Middle East Asian Women, Atlantis 2013
- Invited to be part of panel discussion, Jumeirah Hotel 2014.
- Was invited by FM 89.4 for a live talk.
- American university of Dubai invited for a talk to Interior Design students, 2017
- Invited to speak on Yoga and Ayurveda at various organizations in Sharjah Chamber of Commerce Sharjah and Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi 2018

**SGI:**

Monika as part of Soka Gakkai International (NGO) from 1994 in India and joined later in Dubai in 2002 has been an active proponent and participant to these value creating initiatives:

- October 2004: Boys & Girl Art Exhibition
- November 2005: Seeds of Change Exhibition.
- November 2007: Building a Culture of Peace for children of the world.
- February 2011: Launch event on Dr. Daisaku Ikeda's publication.
- February 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015: hosted Poetic heart connecting Humanity.

**SSY:**

As part of Siddhi Samadhi Yoga involved in Humanitarian works.

**Yoga and Trekking:**

- Received Yoga Certification by Ayush Ministry, India 2017
- Completed Kha-Nimo Peak (19,000 ft) Himalayan Expedition, 2017

**SAMEAWS:**

In 2018 she was inducted in the Board of South America- Africa - Middle East - Asia Women forum.

**Hall of Fame Induction:**

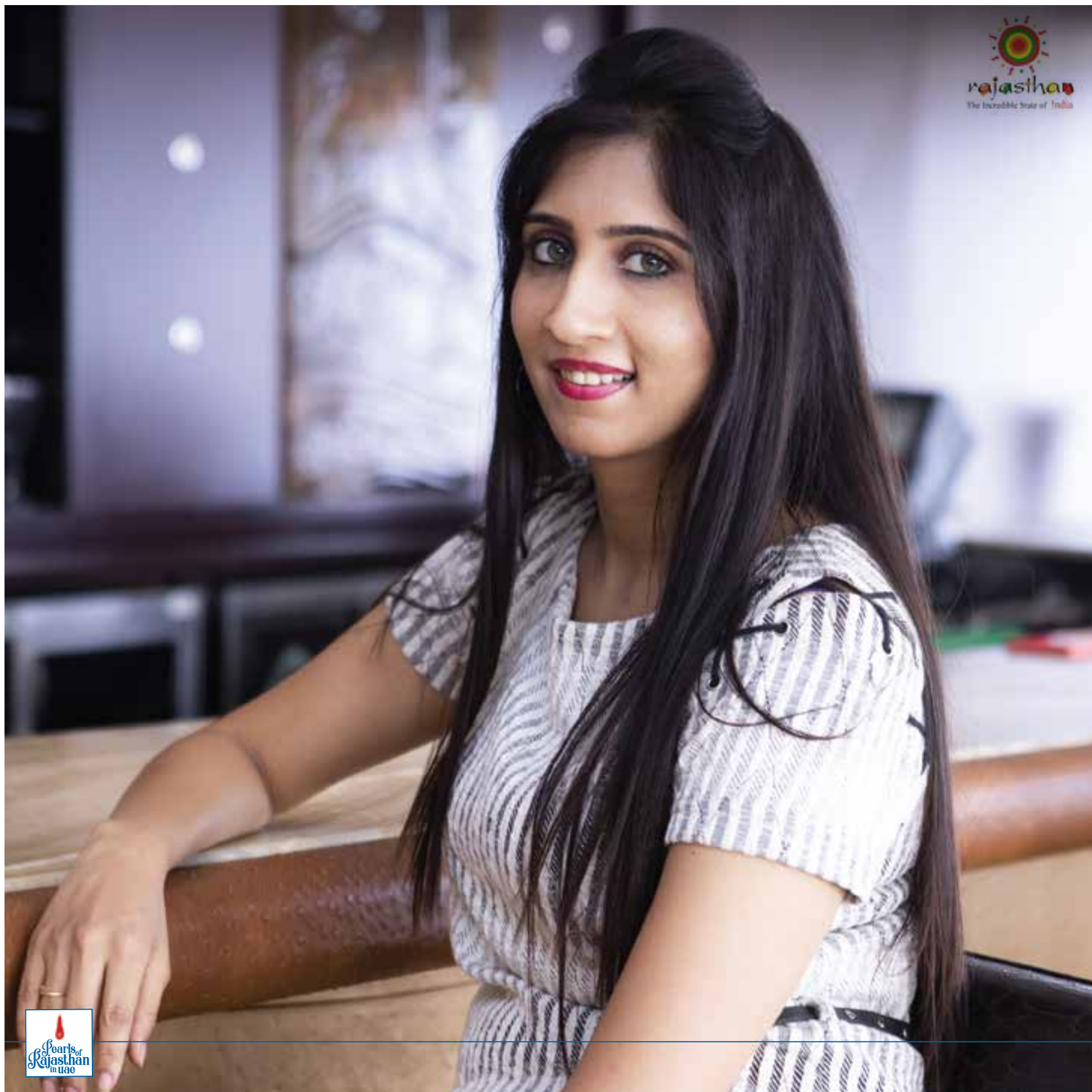
Center for Economic & Leadership Development, 2018

**IBPC:**

Part of 8th Administrative Board of Indian Business & Professional Council, Dubai.  
IBPC 2019: Convener /Part of steering committee for Construction & Real Estate Focus Group,  
9th Administrative Board of IBPC.

**Recipient of Indywood Vanitha Ratna Award 2018**





# *The* Super “Fashion” Mom

NEELIMA JAIN, Managing Director, Neelis - Uniforms & Costumes

*“I never shy away from challenges, either in business or real life.  
I accept it as a destiny. Just Enjoy it.”*



Born in Sujangarh, brought up in Hyderabad, an entrepreneur in the fashion industry, and family business in marble, all these combined make up the bubbly dynamic lady Neelima Jain. A girl who was once about to join an engineering college ended up moving to Dubai to work in various industries and offices before finally starting her costume designing and Uniform business. Who believes in work and work and work.

“I never shy away from challenges either in business or real life. I accept it as a destiny. Just Enjoy it.”







Talking about her eventful journey, she gives the entire credit behind her success to her elder brother. “It was my brother who pushed me to pursue my dream. He believed that I should have whatever I desired,” she shares.

After she moved to Dubai, she worked in the real estate sector, banking sector, and insurance sector, all the while developing a strong network for her dream of starting her business. She also joined a business networking group called BNI which provided her with a platform to connect with people across the globe.

It was while she was an advisor with an insurance

company that her dream found a beginning. “I did not want to be in fashion designing and wait for clients to come to me. I wanted to be in corporate and have corporate clients. So I decided to go into costume designing and started working with companies and schools on a project basis,” she explains. Slowly and steadily, she started to expand her business through referrals and now she has also worked on glamorous events like Mrs. India-UAE.

Having such a humble beginning, today she is an accomplished costume designer working independently with an amazing team. Despite being a mother, she calls her

business her first baby as it is her passion and she did not even take a break during her pregnancy.

Being described as a super-woman, she lives up to the words as she manages her business and her home all by herself. “I do not let even the smallest things go. Be it my daughter’s homework or a team member’s birthday, I make sure I am involved,” she says. Her attitude reflects in handling clients as well because she treats all clients equally, big or small. She believes that you cannot predict which small client may end up getting you a huge contract. Being so passionate about both fronts, professional and personal, she does not feel the need for any more spare time for herself.

*“I may have ideas or strategies, but I am nothing without my team. They are the ones who implement my ideas,”*





*“It was my brother who pushed me to pursue my dream. He believed that I should have whatever I desired,”*



She also defines herself as a team player who knows the importance of her team members. “I may have ideas or strategies, but I am nothing without my team. They are the ones who implement my ideas,” she admits. Believing in the magic of hard work, she acknowledges that this is instilled in her simply because she is an Indian. “Indians can be anywhere in the world, but they will always be the most

hard-working people. Everyone knows this, and it generates respect for Indians. This is also what allows Indians to bond with people everywhere,” she says.

Along with being a team player, she is a true Rajasthani. She is a firm believer in the values, culture, and traditions of Rajasthan. A very hospitable host herself, she is a supporter of ‘Manuhaar’, a warm

and welcoming tradition native to Rajasthan. Being a Rajasthani in Dubai, she misses the flavor of the proud state of India as she admits that the culture and the rituals indigenous to Rajasthan cannot be seen anywhere else in the world. This being said, she is also a forward-looking woman who urges people to move forward with time while preserving the values and culture.





# Fulfilling a Mother's Dream.

DR SANGEETA PARASHAR, CEO and Chairwoman of Cocoon Clinics

*“Life is a rollercoaster ride, enjoy it.”*



With her ancestral roots being infused with the traditions of Rajasthan and virtues of the South, Dr. Sangeeta Parashar is the embodiment of perseverance as is justified by her journey from being a humble Marwadi woman to a head-strong personality reputed within the medical field.

Sangeeta, being a remarkable Radiologist and co-founder of Cocoon Plastic Surgery Clinic, has transitioned herself to become an inspiration for the budding female medical scientists of India.





*“My mother believed in me; I believe in the next generation”*



Born in conservative Marwadi family in the city of Gulbarga Karnataka, she has led her life with the sole intention of making her parents proud of the woman she has become.

Sangeeta owes her parents for paving the path towards her success. Ever since Sangeeta's birth, her mother had ensured that the family's future doctor e given opportunity to build her career through higher studies which, at the time, was considered uncommon by the society.

Sangeeta's mother consistently fought against the trends of the society to assure that her daughter was given what she always desired - a chance at higher education.

Being the only female amid two male siblings, Sangeeta, in her early days, acted in accordance with the society. However, she had inherited her mother's will of steel which later aided her in achieving fulfilling her mother's dreams.

Rebelled against society's common notions... which paved the way for her acceptance into KMC Hubli - one of the finest medical colleges of the time. From there, began a tale of constant challenges which eventually led her to Mumbai to further hone her medical skills.

Sangeeta's determination to redefine the society's mindset grew rapidly with every opposing thought

that was projected onto her. This unwavering sense of dedication set in a motion a chain of events where she struggled within the concrete jungle of Mumbai to eventually earn a position within the Radiology department in the Bombay Hospital.

During her struggle in Mumbai, she met her husband to-be, Dr Sanjay Parashar - now founder of the Cocoon Plastic Surgery Clinic in Dubai and regarded as one of the leading Plastic Surgeons within the region.

Sanjay's personality directly complements Sangeeta's being and one can clearly notice the compatibility that allowed them to make their marriage a success despite the common trends of the society.



*“I have certain principles. I never deviate from them”.*



Asking Sanjay about what he admires the most about Rajasthan, he replies by saying, “Food, I love the food in Rajasthan”. He further adds to his answer by telling how he makes sure to attend any meeting being held in Rajasthan to savour the food.

When asked about her children and how she prefers to nurture them, Sangeeta says, “I have certain principles. I never deviate from them”. The quote from Sangeeta shows how she has decided to bestow

the lessons she has learned from her journey on to her children Sanjana and Sidhant to assure that they will have a smoother story to tell.

Even Sanjana shares her love for new challenges, despite the obstacles. “This is something I have adopted from my parents.

Their ambition and passion for their life and work encourages me to do the same,” she says recounting

the invaluable support her parents have always provided.

Talking to Sangeeta, one can never fail to notice the sheer strength and humbleness that emanates from her personality. By taking cues from her journey, Sangeeta, now a mother of two, ensures that her children are adapted to stand for what’s right, even if it means going against the current acceptance grounds of the society.







# Balance *between* Elements.

VARSHA AGARWAL, CEO, RainbowTex Industrial Co. LLC

*“I want people to recognize my name  
that is what I expect out of my life”.*

It is a common belief that success demands a remarkable balance between all aspects of life. Varsha Agarwal, Owner of Comforter manufacturing unit, an experienced Chartered Accountant and Co-Founder of SmartBiz Auditing, and her routinely efforts to balance the social and professional extremes of her life are a prime example that can undoubtedly help in understanding the interdependency of success and balance.



*“Things turn out best for the people who make the best out of the way things turn out.”*



Varsha's tale started in the Sirohi District of Rajasthan, where she was born as the youngest of three siblings. As her elder brother and sister chose the medical stream of education.

Her mother motivated her to establish her profession within the field of commerce. To respect her parents' wishes, she agreed and has since achieved numerous professional milestones within the domain.

She started her professional career as a Senior Accountant in Prince Computers Group. After working there for a year, she moved to Nestle.

Her next professional break came as a job in Al Ghurair Investment Holding Company, where she acted as a Hyperion Analyst. After gaining experience in the analytical field, she moved from Al Ghurair to join Schlumberger, where she took up the role of a Hyperion Financial Analyst.

When asked about what she expects out of her life, she gleefully replied by saying: "I want people to recognize my name that is what I expect out of my life". To achieve her expectations, she has started her own chartered accountancy firm.

She also own a Pillow and Comforter Factory in Ajman.



Varsha states that she has maintained a balance within her life owing to the contributions of her husband, Mahesh Agarwal. As the Managing Director of SmartBiz Auditing, Mahesh has partnered with her even in the professional field. Given the same, the pair has developed a noticeable compatibleness between them.

When asked about his mantra that helps him overcome daily challenges, Mahesh replies: “Honesty, hard work, and focus”

Upon asking Mahesh about how he maintains a balance between his work and personal life, he credits Varsha as his primary supporter who allows him to do so by taking care of the household.

Even though Varsha has become a successful entrepreneur, she hasn't forgotten her roots. She further urges the youth of Rajasthan to always remember the place that they come from by saying: “Don't forget your place. Don't forget your roots. Always be in touch with them”.

Talking about Rajasthan and her fond memories in that city, she absolutely admires the heritage and associates the ‘Pink City’ with the happy memories of her childhood.

Her journey is the ideal example for understanding the interconnection between success and balance. As a mother of two and a remarkable chartered accountant, her consistent efforts to maintain both her professional and personal lives stands as an inspiration for many individuals within the nation.







# *The* fearless fighter within

GAURAV SETHIA, Director, Union Bancaire Privée (ME) Ltd

*“Never be afraid to ask anything.  
The worst is you get a ‘no’ as an answer.”*



A man who's vision goes beyond the physical realms of reality, this is the story of Gaurav Sethia, a Rajasthani born in Tejpur, Assam where his grandfather had relocated for business. Due to changing political circumstances in Assam and after a run-in with the militants, his father decided to move to Indore during Gaurav's high school

years. But Gaurav's destiny had more in store. Dreaming of studying at the Harvard Business School one day, he moved to Mumbai to pursue his MBA and started his career with Air Sahara. Soon enough, his roots began calling him and this saw him shift to the financial sector, where his career as a financial advisor began.



After another couple of shifts in India, and a couple of short stints in International locations, his fate in the GCC finally came knocking when he shifted his base to Muscat, Oman with his wife to join Bank Muscat. His dream of studying at Harvard was also pacified when he completed the Senior Executive Leadership Program with the esteemed institution while working in Muscat. Currently, he resides in Dubai working with a private Swiss Bank.

Just like his relationship with financial advisory, he describes the relationship between the Indian Community in the UAE and the UAE government as a symbiotic one. “There is a lot of cooperation as Indians have helped the economy, in terms of investment and in terms of value addition.

This is definitely recognized by the government, resulting in easier visa norms and many Indians

actually retiring in the UAE as well,” he shares.

The simple statement that he lives by is: “never be afraid to ask anything. The worst is you get a ‘no’ as an answer.” He truly believes that there are no silly questions or assumptions and it is always best to ask and get things cleared.

Following his belief in keeping things transparent, he is quite clear on the difference between a boss and a leader and goes to the extent of labeling the title of a boss being “an old school concept.” A perpetual learner, he admits that the chance to learn something new every single day is what drives him.

Going by his philosophy of learning new things, he recently discovered pranayama, which has become his favorite thing to do in his spare time, apart from spending time with his daughter Pahal.







His wife, Sunayna Sethia, seconds his thought as she too loves spending her spare time with their Pahal. A healer in the present day, she has also been involved in the financial side of the corporate world in her past.

A very humble woman who never minded sacrificing her career for her family appreciates the support she always got from the two of her most influential people, her mother, and her husband. Like her husband, she also believes in the power of meditation, yoga, and pranayama and also encourages her daughter to practice it with them.

The Sethia family is full of vibrancy yet down to earth. Their daughter is much disciplined child, a vivid badminton player. Sunayna and Gaurav are both Art lover as we see the good collection and they try to keep all artefact with a memory line.



Gaurav's brother Saurav based in India and sister Gunjan Samdaria based Texas, USA. Talking about their common ancestral land of Rajasthan, the things they miss from there are not common. While Gaurav misses the vibrancy, the colors, the passion, and the festivals, his wife misses spending vacation time with her cousins in childhood and the food that comes along with the culture of the princely state.





# *To be* Successful follow your passion

KANHAIYA RATHI, ACA, CFA, Managing Director & CEO, Aspire Cap

*“Hard work, discipline and a passion for what you do,  
that is what makes you successful”.*



“Hard work, discipline and a passion for what you do makes you successful”. Unlike most people, Kanhaiya Rathi has something unique in his pursuit of success, working for his passion. He loves deal making and enjoys the nuances of deal structuring. And this is exactly what sets him apart from his competition, and the key to his phenomenal journey. “My father taught me to advance fearlessly in life and put your 100% in whatever you do .” In addition to his father, Kanhaiya gives credit to his elder brother, Manoj, who has

guided and mentored him during his studies and early days which has shaped his career.

A successful Chartered Accountant turned Investment Banker, Kanhaiya is now a budding entrepreneur as well, whose roots can be traced to a tiny village of Rajasthan in the Churu district called Tal Chhappar. He describes Tal Chhappar as a small, sleepy town, known for two things; mothiya and the black deer sanctuary.



*“Just look around, from blue collar workers to CEO’s and CFO’s of the large corporates in the UAE – majority of them comes from India as well as some of the renowned businesses are run by Indians, we, Indians, owe a lot to this Country and its people”.*



After spending childhood there, his family moved to Assam where his father was running a timber business. It was here that a very memorable incident took place in his life.

Kanhaiya, along with his family had to spend a few months away from Assam as his father was undergoing medical treatment. During this time, he missed out on school, and when he was back, the Headmaster said that he couldn’t allow him to sit for the crucial 10th grade Board Exam because of his poor attendance and the Head Master was afraid that his poor performance in Exams could bring down the entire school’s result.

Kanhaiya took this as nothing but a challenge, and when the results were announced, he surprised everyone by securing the highest marks in the school and becoming school topper in Board Exam!

After his schooling, he started studying B. Com degree and then moved to Kolkata, where he became a Chartered Accountant. He secured all India 28th Rank in CA (Inter) Examination. Soon after completing his CA and CS, he got an international placement and started working with Ernst and Young in Muscat. He specialized in Banking and the Financial services sector like he always wanted to and moved to Dubai in the year 2005. Recounting his journey, Kanhaiya cannot go by without mentioning the hospitable environment provided by the country and the opportunities available for entrepreneurs in the U.A.E.

He explains business friendly environment and ease of doing business as key differentiating factors which sets UAE apart from the other countries. He expresses gratitude to the leaders of the UAE for their vision and for building foundation for such a great nation. But of course, at the same time he feels proud of the contribution of Indians in helping build the UAE economy.

*“Just look around, from blue collar workers to CEO’s and CFO’s of the large corporates in the UAE – majority of them comes from India as well as some of the renowned businesses are run by Indians. We, Indians, owe a lot to this Country and its people”.*



After gaining vast experience at bulge bracket international banks like Deutsche Bank, Credit Agricole and UBS AG, Kanhaiya has started a boutique investment banking advisory firm – Aspire Cap to address the quality gap in mid-market M&A space.

From entry level in Investment Banking, Kanhaiya has risen through the ranks and became Executive Director - Head of Corporate Advisory Group at UBS AG in a very short period of time. He was the youngest Executive Director at UBS AG – Dubai office.

The new business is doing pretty well, thanks to Kanhaiya's passion and entrepreneurial spirit. Aspire Cap has successfully closed transaction worth over AED 500 mn in last one year of operations. "But the dream is much bigger..." He adds.

When asked about how he maintains a work-life balance, Kanhaiya simply replies with a smile "This is a bit challenging right now given the business is new and a lot

of traveling. I love spending time with my daughters, playing with them. I enjoy meditation and gym though I am not very regular. "

Supporting Kanhaiya is his wife Richa Rath, who had aspired to be a Chartered Accountant as well, in her younger days. Her message to the world is "To accept everyone as they are, that is the way to peace".

They have two lovely daughters named Vedika (Aanchal) and Harshika.

Talking about Rajasthan, one can see the love and respect Kanhaiya has for it. "I miss Rajasthan a lot, its culture, and my childhood memories. Above all, I have great respect for the Marwari community and their business acumen."

"From the Birlas to Mittal, they have shown exceptional passion and hard work in achieving their goal". He adds that he still has a lot to learn from his forefathers and the Marwari community as a whole. Aspire Cap is currently working on a M&A transaction in the region where Arcelor Mittal owned by L N Mittal (another successful Marwari) is a party. Kanhaiya says, "This is like dream came true."







# Nothing can abide success

MAHESH AGARWAL, Managing Director Smart BIZ

*“Don’t let what you can’t do stop you from doing what you can do”.*



Men, who can turn this quote in reality, are rare, and Mahesh Aggarwal is one among them. A boy born in the small town of Falna, Rajasthan, completed his school and college as a successful scholar and headed to Mumbai to pursue his dream of being a Chartered Account.

His aspirations flew when he got his ticket to Dubai. The company inviting him to work had to give up on his terms and conditions. Mahesh was adamant to return back to India if he didn’t feel at home in Dubai.



*“I’m always contended in life.  
But it doesn’t mean  
to stop dreaming and chasing for it.”*

Mahesh feels settling in Dubai was easier for him in his bachelor tenure. But he also accepts that Varsha, his wife, has always pushed him to be a better person every day.

Varsha is a convent educated lady from a small town, Abu in Rajasthan. She is also a successful Chartered Accountant and has always contributed equal endeavors in their tenure.

Mahesh had then initiated his efforts to join Emirates Airlines and continued there for almost half a decade until he could plan his own trading venture. It was then in the year 2011, when Mahesh and Varsha’s dreams could finally start shaping up.

In the covet race, Mahesh and Varsha have made their life even more beautiful with their astounding kids Harsh and Dhariya. Working towards a better future keeps the couple busy during the day, but the evenings are for their kids. Varsha feels a sense of satisfaction, seeing their children grow with each passing day. Though Mahesh hardly finds any free hour from his busy schedule, he tries to spare an hour for his social relations, which he feels are a strong contributor to his profile.

*“Success can never be bounded.”*



Mahesh is an efficient boss who teaches work ethics to his team, but takes a front foot to clear their queries as a leader, and doesn't leave a single bubble to vacuum the gap between an employee and a boss. After a stressful day it is only the flavors of Rajasthani food that can satisfy him.

Mahesh feels the UAE is yet another small piece of India which is cleaner, peace preaching and prosperity aiming. Mahesh and Varsha call the UAE home and they feel a sense of pride and belongingness in almost every street because of the diversely visible Indian population. But despite this, his hometown holds a special place in his heart and he frequents the land every

once a while. Mahesh is still sure that it is only in Rajasthan where simplicity is an interesting fashion. On the other hand Mahesh is also a sports enthusiast, plays badminton and keeps a disciplined regime for health.

To follow his magic mantra to stay focused in life, he follows a disciplined routine, and thanks Varsha for the same. Like a perfect wife Varsha has taken a step ahead to cultivate their culture in Harsh and Dhariya, to ensure the continuation of Marwari waft. It is a startling experience to get an opportunity to cover such a wonderful couple, who prove “Success can never be bounded.”







# Big challenges *in* young eyes

NANDI VARDHAN MEHTA, CA, Senior Finance Executive

*“Giving back is privilege. I truly believe that I’m just passing on the good I received in this journey from others.”*



Life tests everyone at some point or the other. Some face the challenges at an early age, some face them later in life. Born in a successful Marwari business family in Jodhpur, Nandi Vardhan Mehta faced the first test of life when his mother had to move back to her maternal home, he was just couple of years old along with elder sister Mukti.

Even though he was raised in what some may call an unorthodox environment, he cannot be more grateful to his grandparents, especially his grandmother. “She is my biggest inspiration, a friend, and a guide who taught me the value of principles, integrity, forgiveness, compassion, and philanthropy,” he says.



*“Tu hi path, tu hi manzil, tu hi kaafila, main pyasa tu saagar so tumse aa mila, tu hi aadhaar tu hi aasra, ae maa bata tere bina main kya hu”?*

Looking up to his mother whose only mission was to ensure that her kids have a better future, he was always an obedient child and became a Chartered Accountant because his mother always wanted him to exceed in life.

Poetry was his passion since a very early age and he penned his first poem at the age of 13. His work has been shared on various platforms in India and the UAE but one literature festival closest to his heart is ‘Kitaabo’, which is kids Literature festival in India.

By associating with this festival, he feels he gets to contribute to grooming the future of his home country. Dedicating one of his poems to his mother, he wrote “Tu hi path, tu hi manzil, tu hi kaafila, main pyasa tu saagar so tumse aa mila, tu hi aadhaar tu hi aasra, ae maa bata tere bina main kya hu”?

He is also grateful to all his maternal uncles for their continuous support and encouragements.

His professional journey started with KPMG India, where he got his ticket to the UAE with KPMG Dubai.

This exposure introduced him to the world and many new experiences. Later on, he got associated with ICTSI, after that at just the age of 28, he became one of the youngest CFO of a large local company in the UAE.

“This helped me grow as a professional as it allowed me to build a network, but I also grew personally after coming in touch of my professional guru and mentor Mr. Mishal Kanoo, who have taught me so much about life, humility, and the Emarati culture and way of life,” he says proudly.







It was his association with ICTSI that took him to Syria for a project whereupon seeing the plight of Iraqi refugees, his grandmother's lesson of philanthropy and serving the society came to life. He was also part of the relief team that worked for Gujarat earthquake victims in 2001. These experiences not only tilted his focus towards the society. That's how he named his son "Sharan" that means shelter, with the thought that he would never turn away people when they will seek his help in coming years.

With Prime minister Narendra D Modi's call of make in India & Start up India, I got associated with India's biggest Incubator, Venture Catalyst, where he does his best to support and nurture various early-stage ventures in India.

"Many years ago when a dear friend and senior IPS officer wanted to start an NGO to help the under privileged and downtrodden in Rajasthan, I jumped at the chance. I have been a part of SAPNA ever since," he says while sharing his contribution to the NGO in India. "Giving back is privilege. I truly believe that I'm just passing on the good I received in this journey from others."

Nandi says Shradha was love at first sight wife, once a high flyer as a cabin crew with an airline company, is his support and his critic in every phase of life.

She chose to give up her career to take care of their son Sharan and their home. With an interest in reading romantic fiction, she shares her husband's interests in serving the society as well. She hopes to be a part of her mother's efforts in Jodhpur where she works with underprivileged children in helping them get an education.

This way, she can get a chance to celebrate the festival of Teej, which she misses dearly while being in Dubai.

*"Many years ago when a dear friend and senior IPS officer wanted to start an NGO to help the under privileged and downtrodden in Rajasthan, I jumped at the chance. I have been a part of SAPNA ever since,"*







# A Pearl in the Oyster

NAVEEN SHARMA, Director, Oasis Investments



“All art is autobiographical. The pearl is the oyster’s autobiography.” Mr Naveen Sharma, one among those rare pearls that the artistic land of Rajasthan has ever produced.

An edified boy of a reputed Income Tax Officer, enjoying all the kismet felicitation showered on him by the family, had never calculated his coming years will be a tale to be written. After completing his schooling from variant soils of Rajasthan,

he finally took up his graduation from Jaipur to make a conduit of his upcoming years. Post his graduation, he dipped his brain and cleared CA with all affirmations.

He still feels a sense of content to have worked with one the most famous finance firms of Rajasthan for a wooden block of almost 7 years. Then the avenue of his interests and aspirations took him to UAE, the land of opportunities.



*“The VAT launch and acceptance was a tough sword to conquer”.*

1998, was a flip over year for Naveen and his wife Sunita to walk miles apart from their homeland with their son Karan who was just 2.5 years then.

Though years of settlement on a new land had made the family comfortable but the Naveen had to pay his time. Being a man of success stories, Naveen conceits his 7-days work schedule.

Currently working as an Internal Audit Director for Al Sharafi Group he manages his work storms in five days of the week.

The weekend keeps him engaged in his commitments of betterment. He had served as the chairperson of the largest association of ICAI, bagging the highest number of registered professionals. Following the stream, he was an active member to launch VAT in UAE, and if put in his words “the launch and acceptance was a tough sword to conquer”.

The numerous events of the launch had hosted variant celebrities, with a pinch of

fun in every sketch. Another feather to his coronet is the vice-presidency of Rajasthan Business and Professional Council, to connect the new generation with their homeland.

Naveen is a strong believer of ethics and culture, and wishes to give back to his motherland and his plane of action. RBPC, is his way to keep the spirit of basic Rajasthani/ Marwari culture high in his family and the community.

Also his active membership in IBPC (Indian Business and Professional Council) is another circlet. Being a whiff of the active ministry of India and their avulsing relationship with UAE keeps him positive about the upcoming exchange of talent between the countries.

Naveen’s close work relation with the consulate makes him feel accountable to his second homeland, as it is a land with freedom of ethics and rules at the same time.





*“If you can dream it,  
you can definitely make it.”*

#### **A Brief:**

- He is the Immediate Past Chairman of ICAI UAE Dubai Chapter
- He has served in the Executive Committee of ICAI Dubai Chapter for 5 years in different positions.
- Under his chairmanship ICAI Dubai won the best chapter award for the fifth time and created history by hosting record 65 events with 146 CPE hours with 54,962 collective CPE hours and 12,675 members in attendance and hosted 180 speakers which include Mr Rajat Sharma, Ms Deepa Malik , Arnab Goswami and Ms Dia Mirza among others. - He contributed immensely during introduction of VAT in the UAE by holding now famous VAT Clinic, VAT Open Day, VAT Open World, VAT Zero hours, VAT games and even VAT cruise.
- Dubai Chapter got unprecedented media coverage in print, digital and TV notably on Republic, Times Now, ZEE, CNBC and even started first of its kind unique Radio show : “New You Can Use”
- He has also served as President of ICAT. In addition to Chartered Accountant (CA), he is also a Company Secretary (CS) from ICSI, Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) from USA. He also holds Diploma in Investment Development Banking and he has also cleared Level-2 from CFA Institute, USA.
- He has written many articles in professional magazines, souvenirs and international brochure and won many awards. He is also the mentor of IBPC.

Naveen has been a happy resident of UAE for almost two decades now. Sunita together with their two children have taken the gist of modernization and cultural values in a balanced manner.

Karan is now a successful profession in The United States, and daughter shares a deep relation with Sunita and Naveen. Sunita being a successful realtor and a beautiful home-maker, poise a give and take relationship with their children.

Naveen wishes to shower all his ideologies to his children and be an exemplar for their future endeavours. “A part of me is still incomplete” says Naveen.

In the race of life Naveen and Sunita feels away from the flavours of Rajasthan and their long-lost relations there. With a strong urge both of them wishes to aspire Rajasthanies back in the homeland to welcome lingual and technology advancements in their lives keeping the gist of culture intact.

These words are lustre of his story, and here to end this in his way, “If you can dream it, you can definitely make it.”







# Hold the Pulses. With gratitude.

ALOK BHARGAVA, Managing Director, Praramb Agri Trading DMCC

*“You have to go lengths for first milestone, then it’ll become your routine”*



1990, summers were at its peak, an aspiring Chartered Accountant was returning back to his hometown, Udaipur, after completing his internship in Delhi. Unsure eyes could gather all the trees passing by, and his mind could foresee the impending years approaching. Alok, a successful re-exporter in UAE now, was once a

fun loving, light hearted college student.

His life rotated around his evening plan with friends to bunking classes, but none of his carefree behaviour could hinder his studies. Alok had lined up his merit list stories starting from his school days to his college ranking and finally his All India 26th Rank in ICAI.



*Alok has been awarded as Emerging - Re Exporter of the year 2018 by Dubai Export in association with DP world under 11 edition of ESEA Awards held at Intercontinental Festival city on 18th Feb 2019- It's a Oscar award of the food Industry-*

*Alok has been Awarded as "Most ICONIC NRI of the UAE" In 2018 by Ministry of External Affairs. India*

Alok says "I never dreamed about success, I worked for it." His story is as elevated as his conviction in life. With the initiation of his first job with Ambuja cement as an accounts manager, his persuasion of betterment started taking a shape. Almost five years later when Alok was sent Tanzania as a Financial Controller for Aditya Birla Group, his fervour had started growing its wings. But he always knew that his position and high pay package wasn't his destination. That's when in early days of 1996, he planned to get in trading sector. He had invested his precious eleven

years in Africa, where his wife Dipti had always stood like a backbone in his journey of evolution. Dipti too belong from the soil of Rajasthan but had been brought up in Ranchi and moving to places with Alok was also her journey of newness.

Later his expansion plans landed him to UAE, a land of better prospects. Initially Alok had started his business in partnership back in 2008, but his aggressive hard work paved his path for his self owned business in 2016. Being a successful re-exporter in

UAE he has a feeling of gratitude towards the safety, ethics and transparency that the country follows.

As Alok's mantra of life "You fail on your way to success", he has never let his spirit down. He believes in welcoming the new technology and its boon too, but contemplates in the idea of meets and greets rather social media networking. Alok and Dipti both feel a brain wave when sweet old memories of school and college take over, though social media keep their friends close.







Alok has a simple notion about life, but he still believes in being a leader than a boss to his team. He feels a leader gets his work done being an exemplar unlike to that of a boss.

His honest soul has conceptualized a non-profitable dream to strive and launch an initiative that can build the FOOD GAP between the nations. And we still believe his thoughts indicated a Rajasthani missing the flavours of his land.

Dipti, Alok and two kids, Abhishek, who is doing his masters (Electronics) in Australia and Ruchira who is doing her bachelors in Hotel Management also a wonderful 3D painter and known for her deliciously baked variety of cakes, make a beautiful family with a smell of Rajasthani food in their kitchen.

Still they stoutly feel that Rajasthani culture shall always stay in their veins but the new generation

knocking the international doors should start cultivating their growth by adapting lingual and technology advancements. It is a pungent feeling of satisfaction to have known an uncomplicated man like Alok.

He believes in simplicity in modern style as today we have to stay with world pace yet sticking to grounds. That's what he conveys to all Rajasthani family.









# Walking the unconventional *path*

DAYAANAND GODNANII, Managing Director, Dynamic Pearl General Trading

*“I become what the situation requires. I can lead and be a leader if needed and I can delegate and manage to be a boss when needed.”*



One who gives happiness is considered good, but one who spreads happiness far and beyond is considered a real gem Dayaanand Godnanii, owner of the brand KD that sells candies, wafers, biscuits, and other assorted goods with more than 200 brands and in 15 countries, is one such man who brings a smile on the faces of thousands of children around the globe. Starting as a person fixing watches in a local market, it was a mix of talent, hard-work, blessings from the God and

well-wishers, and a little bit of luck which brought him where he is today.

Born and raised in Jaipur, he started working right after school because of the family circumstances and responsibilities on his young shoulders. “I had the talent which people recognized but I wanted to do something in life that earned me the respect of people around me, something that gave me satisfaction,” he explains his motivation behind his move to Dubai.

*“I had the talent which people recognized but I wanted to do something in life that earned me the respect of people around me, something that gave me satisfaction,”*



An enormous amount of debt was another major reason he set out for the Middle East in search of a fortune. “I started as a merchandiser for Carrefour, then Continental, and switched multiple roles before finally being able to start my company six years ago,” he remarks.

The credit for the unusual names behind his company ‘Dynamic Pearl’ and his brand name ‘KD’ goes to his wife. He shares how she was the one who gave the idea of being ‘dynamic’ which stuck and how ‘KD’ is nothing but an abbreviation for ‘Karan Diya’, basically are the names of his kids.

Apart from being supported by his relatives, he was ably supported by the UAE government in setting up his business. “My clients are mostly from abroad, so even the taxation has helped me grow and gain more clientele,” he says.

He feels that the Indian community has supported the UAE government as they have supported the Indian community. At the same

time, he applauds the government for not being partial to any particular segment of people. “The government does not discriminate or differentiate. They treat everyone as equal, be it Indians, Asians or the people of around the globe,” he mentions.

Defining himself as a learner, he believes that learning never stops. This learning is what has made him humble as he says, “I become what the situation requires. I can lead and be a leader if needed and I can delegate and manage to be a boss when needed.” Apart from being a leader and a boss, he assumes a different role with his children, that of a friend.

This relationship with his children, along with his love for his wife, is the motivation behind his work-life balance.

Dayaanand always shows the humbleness in all scenario, be the guest or the business associates as he mentions with big smile his suppliers always treat him in a royal manner, whenever he visits them



*“Rajasthan has given me everything I have today. So if my state needs anything from me, I will be there to help out,”*



His wife, Vineita Godnani, sheds some more light on his ‘friendship’ with his children when she brands him as the ‘strict one’ while she defines herself as being the one who is lenient at times.

She also loves spending time with their children and taking them out. Being brought up in a conservative household in Jaipur, she has seen a different side of life living in Dubai and passes on the message

to do away with outdated customs that are still existent in the name of tradition.

The message from her better half is almost a shout-out to his home state. “Rajasthan has given me everything I have today. So if my state needs anything from me, I will be there to help out,” he says. Talking about Rajasthan, he gets nostalgic as he mentions he misses spending time with his father and the festivals like they are celebrated in Rajasthan.









# Chokhi Life *with* a style

GUL VASWANI, Chairman- Chokhi Dhani Group & Rigid Group

*“Opportunities don’t happen, you create them.”*



In the mid of 1975, while driving on the roads of Dubai, Mr. Gul Wasvani realised being a driver wasn’t what he was meant to be. He knew his engineer mind wasn’t finding its way. Being a BITS Pillani graduate, he joined the Al Sharaf Group as a driver only to move out of his hometown and explore new opportunities in

Dubai. And his destiny took him to dirty his hands in the steel industry as a budding entrepreneur.

But Gul always knew he was on the right path as his father, Mr. Mohan Lal Wasvani had complete faith in what Gul was doing.



*“I remember when I was in my forties, I used to laugh at myself. I used to look back and see what mistakes I have made. I used to think that at the age of 40, I will not make a mistake. But, I review every five years, even until today the process is the same”*

“We all can dance, when in love”, Gul found his love in flavours. The path was still not fine as Gul whiffed a strong odour of discontent among his own industry.

That’s when the lifecycle took a turn and the reek brought Chokhi Dhani in subsistence. His journey had always been supported by the goodwill earned by his father, who had served as an honest Chairman at Rajasthan Muncipal Board.

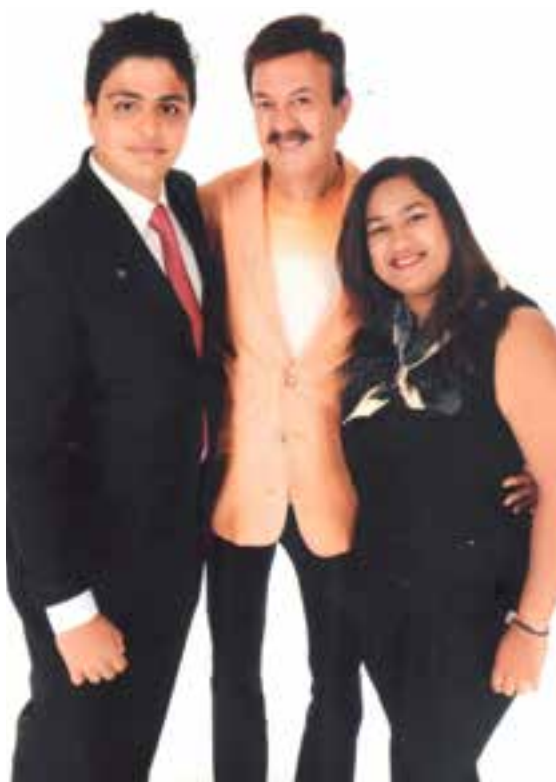
Originally, the family had seen fortune under his father’s title of Zamindar, but post-partition Mr. Mohan Lal had preached his children with his theory “Only Honesty Triumphs”, and his life is an example of the same.

After the establishment of the first Chokhi Dhani, this unpretentious Rajasthani boy took laps of success with minimal pride.

In the current scenario when the business has flourished well and his daughter, Kirti, is busy handling his production parts, elder and younger brother heading two other branches of the chain, he still takes a back foot space to be an unfussy creator rather than being an unruly boss.



*“We all can dance, when in love”,*



Gul has hasn't just bypassed the struggles of modernization but praises the efforts being instigated by the younger generation.

Rajasthan remains close in all his endeavours and the taste of Chokhi Dhani is a pure example of the same. Being a coach to his children, he has left the ball in their court to decide whether they wish to make their own experiences till they age sixty, or inherit his learning to add on their own.

Though he has settled in the UAE but his roots lie back in Rajasthan. He strongly feels that the exchange relation between UAE and India is like a marriage bond, need of each other. The UAE has welcomed Indians as prosperity and peace sensitive people with a strong business sense.

Whereas, Indians have recognized the UAE as a land of success opportunities and rest the stories speak their own triumph.

“Opportunities don't happen, you create them.” Once correctly quoted and put into action by Gul, the man of desires and endeavour to be a creator in the race of opportunities. From the era of quality to the epoch of competition he has survived all of them with a sense of dignity and integrity. Now at the edge of tranquil, Gul has well prepared the battle ground for his children to hit the achievement swords.

His story has its own followers and preachers.









# Ambition & Hunger Personified

HARISH BHOJWANI, Director, Lals Group

*“I always wanted to do something more, and that hunger led me to where I am,”*



The story of Harish Bhojwani of Jodhpur is one of hard work, self-belief, and learning. When combined, these things made him ambitious and hungry for success and helped him reach where he is today. When asked to

describe him, his son Sumit Bhojwani used the word “persistence” and said that “his journey is not over yet. He is still continuing his legacy and it’ll be my honor if I can even become half of what he is.”



*“Indians have built the country that we see today and the local government and people have immense respect for the community and their contribution.”*

Plucked out of his home town and college even before he could sit for his final exams, he saw himself in Dubai working as a shelf boy in the supermarket chain of Choithrams group, where his learning began. “I always wanted to do something more, and that hunger led me to where I am,” he shares.

Owing to this, he climbed the ladder of success and rose through the ranks to become one of the directors of the group. His experience and ideas saw him diversify into distribution and imports.

Soon Mr. Lal separated from the Choithrams group and started his own group in distribution, where he took Harish along, to work in the FMCG division of

the Lal’s Group. “Mr. Lal took me as a director when he separated and put me in charge of the FMCG division. We saw an opportunity in imports as Dubai is completely reliant on imports. We even partnered with various businesses along the way,” he enlightens. Due to his hard work and efforts, the FMCG division became one of the best performing divisions in the group and is one of the top five divisions in today’s date as well.

Just like his efforts have always been recognized by his peers and superiors, he is not shy to recognize the efforts made by the Indian community in the shaping of the UAE. In his opinion, “Indians have built the country that we see today and the local government

and people have immense respect for the community for their contribution.”

He describes himself as a mix of a learner and a teacher. He believes that if he teaches whatever he learns, it makes his life easy as he can delegate. But that does not mean he enjoys the comfort more than his work, which is why his magic mantra is to never sit idle. “I need to keep thinking, I need to keep moving forward all the time,” he describes. This is the reason why he never has any specifically allotted me-time. He likes to hang out with friends, get a drink or two, follow up on sports tournaments, and spend time with his family, but he is reachable on his phone 24 hours a day.







*People should never stop learning and never forget where they come from.*

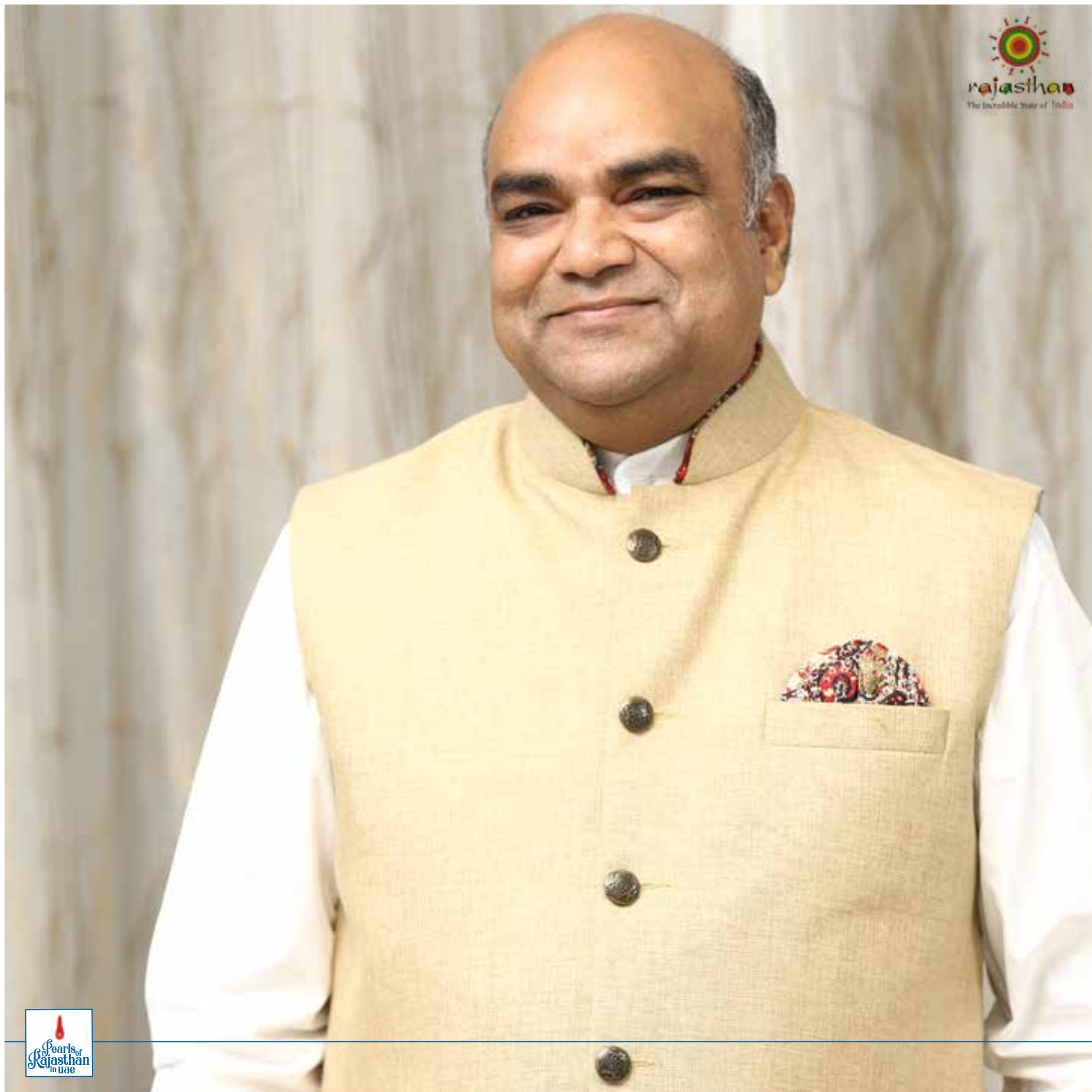


Getting nostalgic on the mention of Rajasthan, he mentions that he misses the festivals and celebrations from back home, especially weddings. But nothing matches his craving for Rajasthani food.

His wife, Nirmala Bhojwani also shares his love for food, and not just that. She is highly involved in the social circle with her husband and likes to do creative things in her 'Me Time'. A perfect companion for her husband, she proves it when the message she has for people matches that of her husband's, which is to "always believe in yourself and always be yourself."

People should never stop learning and never forget where they come from."







# The Spicy *Journey of* business

PADAM AGRAWAL, Managing Director, Bomaby Foodstuff Trading LLC

*“I believe in simplicity, if you do your deeds in a humble and polite manner even in the toughest time you’ll sail through smoothly”.*



People believing in family values and tradition always strive to keep those values and the tradition alive. But the gentleman of this story went one step ahead by keeping not

just family values and tradition alive but also his family business alive. Padam Agarwal, born in Jaipur, is a fifth-generation businessman dealing in spices.



*“I’m a people’s man, anyone, anytime I’m for them”*

After completing his studies from Jaipur, he thought of diversifying the family portfolio when he went to Bangkok to try his hand at a jewelry business. But even he could not deny what was etched in his fate and passed on to him in his blood, spices. It was in 1994 when his uncle bought a shop in Dubai in partnership with a friend and asked him to assist them in the initial days to set everything up.

What was meant to be a 15-day assisting visit, ended up

with him relocating there permanently. “The journey has seen many ups and downs, but it has been a nice journey and now we are settled here comfortably,” he says with a smile. Thanking his uncle for accidentally helping him settle in the UAE, he also acknowledges the flexibility of the UAE government in terms of trade which has helped businesses in the country to flourish.

A businessman through and through, he is also a very proud Rajasthani. “You can check any field or industry

and you will find people from Rajasthan at the helm.

They have business on their mind but are extremely fair, and hence earn trust easily,” he shares. It is the same confidence of his in fair practices that make him fearless even in times of recession or turmoil. “Someone who knows how to run a business fairly and efficiently has nothing to worry about. Controlling the expenses without compromising on the quality is the key,” he shares his business wisdom.







Apart from running an efficient business, he likes to contribute to the society however he can. Any spare time he gets, he likes to help people. “I prefer being socially active to help our society,” he says.

Apart from helping the society, he also likes to spend time with his family. He feels that spending time with his children Arihant and Sumit is the best way possible for him to pass on the family values to them. His elder

son, following his footsteps, started contributing to the business ever since he was 16 years of age. “It is in our blood,” he quips.

Being the proud Rajasthani that he is, he misses his family while being in Dubai. According to him, the tradition of Rajasthan is the best and he also feels bad about missing the festivals back home.

He describes it as home with warmth that is not found

anywhere else. Seconding his thoughts, his wife, Kusum Agrawal also mentions family and culture as the major differences between life in Rajasthan and life in Dubai, even though the latter is much more luxurious.

Like her husband, she is also socially involved and believes in helping people. The same thought of helping others and moving forward with time is her message to the readers as well.









# Embracing *the* roots

PRADEEP SURANA, CFO - ASB Development Ltd. (Albwardy Group)

*“I enjoy pursuing challenges that seems daunting task to others”*



It is said to that to be truly successful, a man first needs to acknowledge and embrace his most humble roots.

Pradeep Surana, CFO of ASB Development group and a reputed social activist, is a prime example to justify this belief. Born in the small city of Begun, Rajasthan, Pradeep started his life with parents who were actively participating in numerous social and political activities. Owing to this, he was motivated by an undeniable thirst to aid those in

need, something that became an innate part of his personality.

As he progressed through his educational career, Pradeep's parents motivated him to pursue a career in finance. With the intention to fulfil his parent's wishes, Pradeep decided to follow the commerce-based educational stream to become a chartered accountant in 1987.





*“I’m happy that i came from a village’s rich background”*

Due to the lack of reliable educational institutions in Begun, he relocated to Bhilwara and ultimately, Ajmer to graduate from DAV College. After graduation, the strings of fate pulled Pradeep to Mumbai where he further pursued his CA education and developed his financial skills. Eventually, an inevitable feeling of homesickness took hold of him which forced him to relocate back to Bhilwara.

Furthermore, amid a failing textile business, he had to opt for a corporate job in JCT Limited, Phagwara. However, during the course of his job, destiny was silently setting up crucial events in motion. Eventually, Pradeep met the Managing Director of the EMAMI Group who offered him a position in

the organization in Delhi. Wherever he went, through his hard work and persistence, Pradeep never failed to inspire and impress his colleagues.

Soon, Pradeep acquainted himself with Mr. Bhatia - the chairman of Bhatia Brothers Group - who realized the potential Pradeep had. Owing to Mr. Bhatias’ support, Pradeep got a significant amount of experience for handling finances within the hotels' division.

This further allowed him to reach where he is today, the CFO of ASB Development Ltd of Albwardy group in Dubai, where Mr. Albwardy, the Chairman of the group used his potential and gave the global exposure in real sense

### **The Prestigious recognitions include:**

*Being associated with the social activities he got the honor to be the Founder of a number of associations and organization.*

- He was the Founder of ‘Bhilwara Junior Chamber (Jaycees International)’ (1989),
- Founder ‘Treasurer’ of Bhilwara Chapter of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (1989 – 90)
- Founder ‘Treasurer’ of Indian Association, Ajman, UAE (2001 – 03) • Elected as ‘Vice President’ of Indian Association, Ajman, UAE (2004 – 05)
- Elected as President of Indian Association, Ajman, UAE (2005 – 06)
- Founder of ‘Rajasthan Manch, UAE’ (2003)
- Member of Executive Committee of ICWC (Indian Community Welfare Committee) working under Indian Consulate of Dubai (2005 – 06).



*‘Man, Maan, aur Manuhar’ which literally translates to ‘Respect, Integrity, and Greetings’.*



Talking to his wife, Shirley Surana, which we surprisingly asked about Shirley’s modern name, she smilingly mentioned about the futuristic approach of her parents. Now a dedicated social volunteer, one can notice the compatibility between the two individuals.

Both of their personalities are extremely humble despite the milestones they’ve achieved. Shirley proudly describes herself as a house-maker who feels joy in nourishing her kids daughter Stuti, son Prateek who is married to Nandini and aiding people in need.

When asked about what he misses the most about Rajasthan, Pradeep jokingly replies by saying, “Food”. He further says, “And the warmth that the people of Rajasthan exude”.

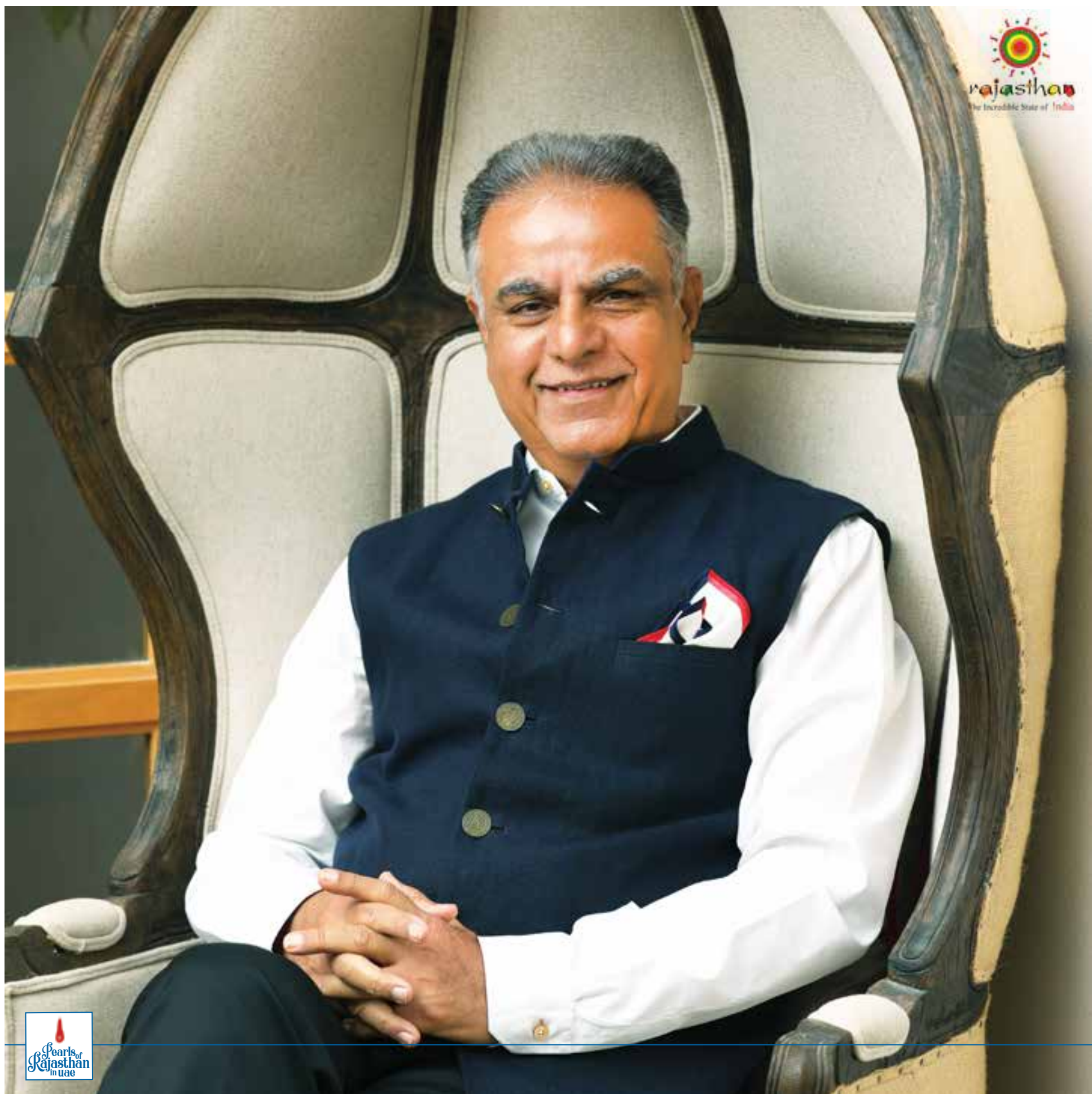
Witnessing him talking about his homeland, one can

easily deduce about the rich culture the city is so famous for. Pradeep urges the current generation and the youth of Rajasthan to maintain the ‘Man, Maan, aur Manuhar’ which literally translates to ‘Respect, Integrity, and Greetings’. He encourages them to maintain these 3 pillars of Rajasthan to ensure that the famous culture of Rajasthan never fades away.

Pradeep, as an accomplished social activist and corporate achiever, defines how a humble personality can inevitably attract success to grace your doors.









# Wisdom through Perseverance.

PRATAP RANGWANI, C E O - Al Shafar Contracting Co / Al Shafar Investments

Owner - Pratap Mahal, Ajmer - IHCL SeleQtions

*“safar accha ho to manzil bhi apne aaap acchi ho jayegi”*



“Everything comes to us that belongs to us if we create the capacity to receive it” - this quote from Rabindranath Tagore suits the life of Mr Pratap Rangwani, CEO of Al Shafar Contracting Company, and his journey from the quiet streets of Ajmer to the corporate jungles of Dubai.

Born in 1955 in the city of Ajmer, Rajasthan, Pratap demonstrated signs of never-fading ambitions and curiosity. His father was intro catering business in schools and Colleges. With 5 siblings, talking about Pratap’s personality, he has been in constant pursuit of

knowledge. Owing to the same, as of today, he stands as the epitome of wisdom gained through experience.





*“life is always hard but must go step by step, I enjoyed all my steps”.*



During his educational career, Pratap was regarded as one of the brighter students and was always willing to learn. While in his college years, he got inspired by a street magician and decided to indulge in the same by performing 15-minute magic shows in his college. Eventually, he came to be known as ‘the Magician’ within the college premises, a title that he later justified by achieving many corporate milestones. He was also a silver medalist in cycling in the district.

He lost his father when he was in 2nd year of college, then started giving tuitions to kids for 25 rupees many of them are in UAE now also recalls the tea and biscuits he used to get treated with.



After completing his Civil Engineering diploma in 1975, Pratap visited Bombay with his uncle where he gave an interview to an architect company named Ramesh & Associates. Immediately after, he was hired by the firm and migrated to Dubai. Pratap continued working as an architect in Ramesh & Associates until 1979. Struggling from recession in the market, he soon joined the Chicago Maintenance Company as the Manager and worked there until 1983. Eventually, he moved on and joined Al Shafar Construction Company, in which he worked for over 35 years.

Mr. Ali Shafar is his mentor “life is always hard but must go step by step”. “safar accha ho to manzil bhi apne aaap acchi ho jayegi” enjoy every aspect of your life.





Pratap expresses his dedication to his family and the significance of the same within his life. Similar thoughts are shared by his wife, Amrit Rangwani, as she said: “I have an excellent bonding with kids they are like my friends”. She believes in simplicity, a health conscious and spiritual by nature.

Continuing the conversation with Pratap’s two daughters, Pooja Hirani and Arti Vora, when asked to describe the best characteristics of their father, both mentioned his open-mindedness and his ability to adapt to various circumstances. Pratap’s values and beliefs have been carefully passed onto their grandchildren,

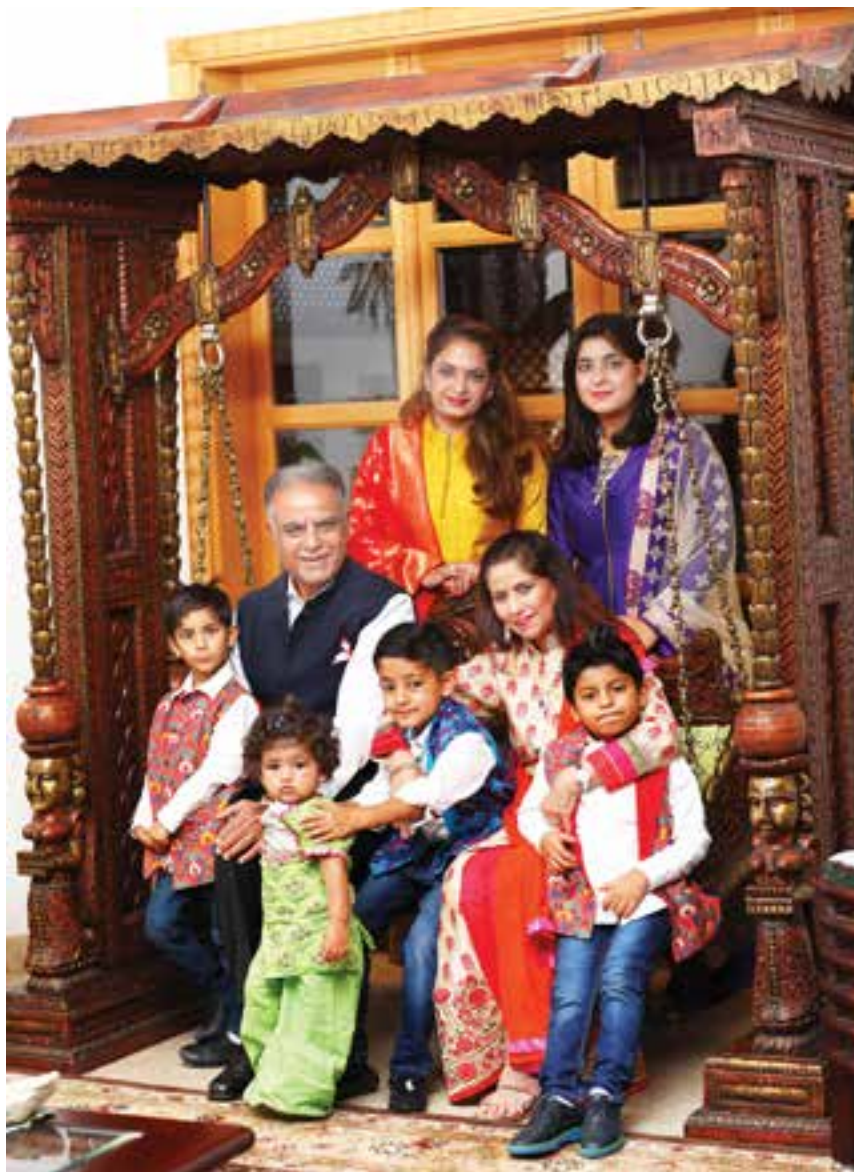
Yash, Aarish, Etash and Kyra, which are especially evident when they describe the things that they like the most in Ajmer and how they wish to visit it more often.

Asking Pratap about what he misses the most about Rajasthan, he says “I miss everything” and then continued to describe the various delicacies he used to have as a child and the noticeable warmth that the people of Rajasthan have within them. When requested to give a message to the youth of Rajasthan, Pratap replied: “Be positive. Do whatever you like. There is no subject or business where you can fail by maintaining a positive attitude.”.

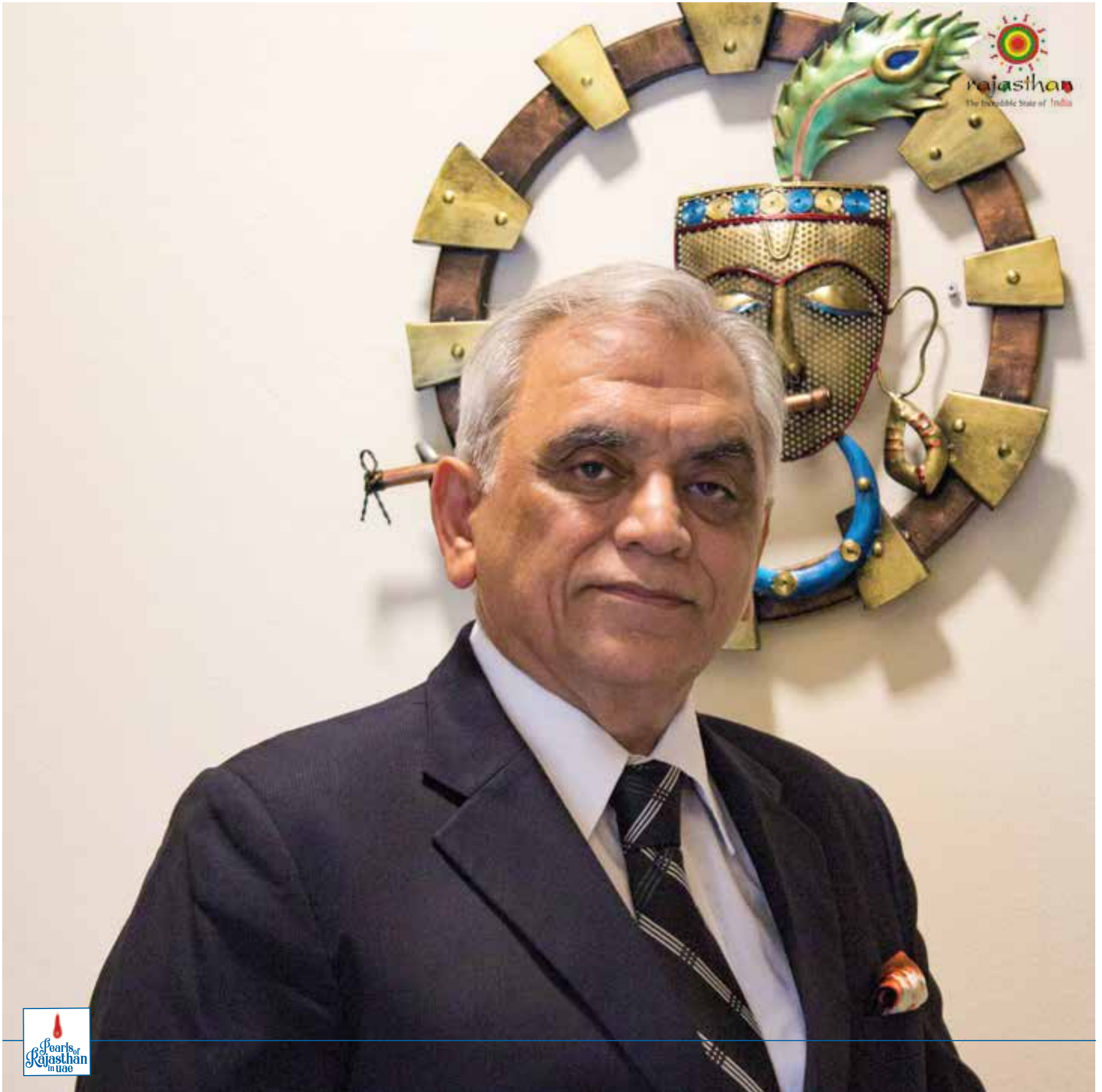
To do something for his home town, Ajmer he being the Contractor, his daughter being an architect they started a venture into Hotel industry - Pratap Mahal, Ajmer - IHCL SeleQtions is one of the top heritage style hotels on Pushkar Bypass Road Village Hokra, Ajmer.

Pratap also shows his gratitude toward his brother Haresh who helped him in the construction of the hotel.

Talking to Pratap, one can witness the wisdom that resides within him. Beneath his current success is an inspiring tale of struggles and perseverance that we can take cues to enhance our lifestyle.







# Prescription of real life *methods*

DR. BHARAT BUTANEY, Internist

*“I ended up staying in Dubai because of the synonymy of the place with growth and prosperity,”*



Born and brought up in Ajmer, Rajasthan, Dr. Bharat Butaney, MD in Internal Medicine, had his mind set on becoming a doctor since he was in class 8. He completed his studies from JLN Medical College, Ajmer, before getting a state job as a Civil Assistant Surgeon in Bhinai. He left for Iran in December 1985 to honor his appointment with the Ministry of Health. He witnessed

the true horrors Iran-Iraq war from very close quarters and even treated war victims. Yet to this day he speaks highly of the Iranians, their attitude towards Indians in general and doctors in particular, with utmost reverence. He is nothing but thankful for the professional opportunities he was offered while he posted there. He cherishes each and every day spent in Iran.



*“success is achieving what makes you feel happy.  
If you love what you are doing, you will do it to the best of your capabilities.”*



His decision to move to Dubai came in lieu of the language-of-education barrier faced by his children. He acquired his professional license but as luck would have it, it came during the Kuwait war. An eternal optimist, Dr Butaney went against the winds, moved to Dubai in March 1991 and established Anubhar Medical Center with a plan of staying there for just 3 years.

Explaining the contrary, he says “In spite of the challenges the 3 years translated into 30, I ended up staying in Dubai because of the synonymy of the place with growth and prosperity, and also because I felt moving to the west, like the USA, may not be an appropriate environment to raise children.”

He describes the magic mantra for life as “doing what you love.” According to him, “success is achieving what makes you feel happy. If you love what you are doing, you will do it to the best of your capabilities. Like for me, alleviating suffering is leisure and hence, is a truly gratifying an experience. I do not treat the disease, but I treat the person. That is why I form bonds and still have patients actively following with me since 1990s.”

Intellectually driven, a voracious reader, Dr. Bharat also has a green thumb, having over 100 plants in his apartment. He does not only keep up to date with medicine and current affairs, but also finds time to read biographies. “Mahatma Gandhi is a perennial source of inspiration. Yet another personality that inspires me is Abraham Lincoln”. He enjoys old Hindi melodies, loves going for long drives and being close to nature. He rarely gives up on his routine of early rising, prayer and exercise. He believes in balancing the man hours resourcefully with a multitude of activities including spending some time in the obeisance to the Almighty. “In today’s world, the first two things humans sacrifice are God and self. You need extra time, skip prayers. Need more time, skip your exercise. In doing so we divest our physical and spiritual well-being. I try not to sacrifice on God, even if I have to let go of my exercise once in a blue moon,” he explains.

Defining himself as more spiritual than religious, he believes “Religion is a personal way to connect to God while spirituality makes you more human and conditions to co-exist in society. When applied to masses religion divides whereas spirituality unites.”

He also is very clear on the difference between a boss and a leader. “My mother always used to tell me to never stop learning. The one who learns can only be the one who teaches, and the one who helps, teaches and guides is a leader. So I am always a learner, to be a leader,” he explains.





He also believes in giving back to society and has been very active socially, unlike his wife Anupama, who is quiet by nature but a wonderful artist, she believes in simplicity yet a perfectionist. Not to miss the part where, son Mohit and daughter Mehak are real friends to her. Anupama and her both kids compliment to each other – there is special chemistry when it comes to social life.

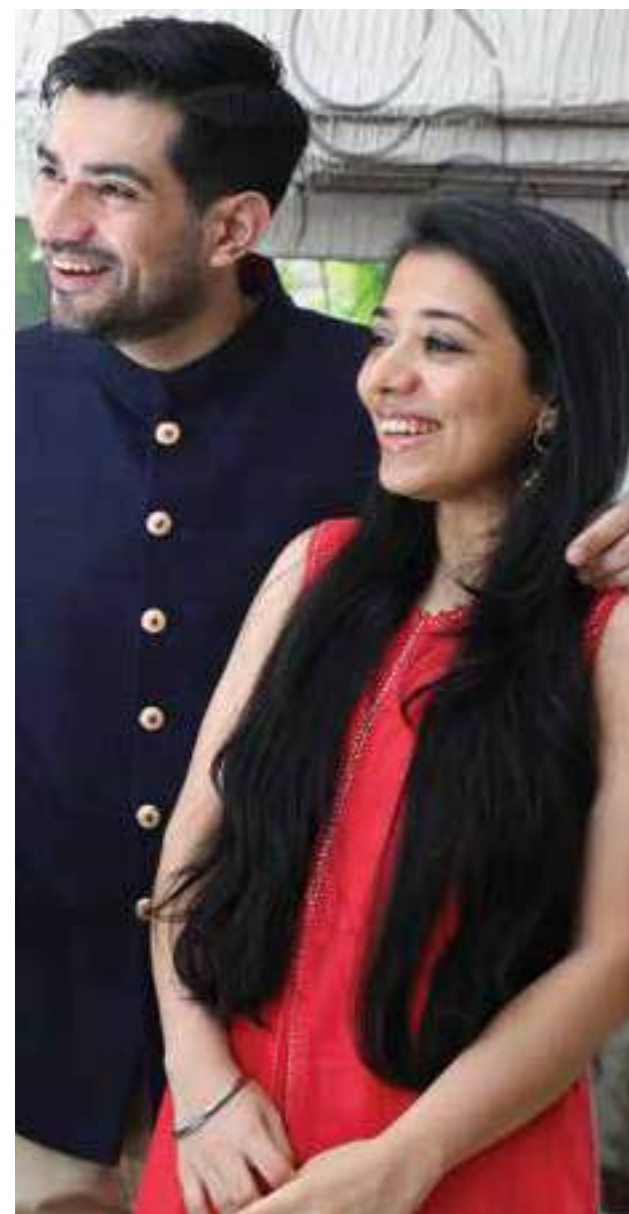
Dr Bharat is a former President of IBPC of Dubai. He has been integral part of several social & humanitarian societies in UAE, including Rotary International, India Club, Indian High School, Rajbhasha Prasar Samiti. He is also a member of Emirates Medical Association, American Medical Society and Cardiology society of India. He has been named once in the Gulf news and twice in the Forbes list of powerful Indians in UAE.

His message to the new generation is simple, “Think outside the box, be innovative and creative.” He urges

the youth to not be an echo chamber, but to create their own noise. He wants them to think by themselves, make mistakes along the way as long as they learn and grow from those mistakes. He wishes the younger generation thinks ahead in the future and creates a new, better world.

If given a chance to change something about his own life, Bharat would like to follow his message of ever-evolving and improving on himself. He would want to do more positive things to make the world a better place for its inhabitants.

When talking about the things he misses about Rajasthan, he mentions the festivals, the colors, and the street food. But his thoughts resonate his wife’s when he mentions the art and the culture of the “Royal” state with the Rajput attitude. “There is a different fragrance in the air there, something that I can never miss,” he ends.







# Learning *leader* all the way

DR. BRAJESH MITTAL, Cardiologist

*“Follow your routine, do things with full honesty and best to your capabilities, and help people.”*



Born in Agra, but hailing from Ajmer, Dr. Brajesh Mittal is a cardiology expert living in Dubai. Son to two government employees and youngest of three children, Brajesh has spent all his studying years in Ajmer, before moving to New Delhi to finish his training with the Batra chain of hospitals and the Apollo chain of hospitals. He wound up in Dubai after he visited the city as a tourist and lost his heart to the city.

“I was working in Mauritius with the Mauritius government as an independent advisor when I visited Dubai. I had earlier passed an opportunity to work in the UAE, but after I visited the city, I was mesmerized,” he recalls. He started his career with Rashid hospital, working in the field of angioplasty and angiography specializing in heart attack patients.



*“you can’t teach if you don’t continue to learn.”*



Despite being involved in a very serious profession, he strives to keep a balance between his work and personal life.

While describing his typical day, he mentions the routine he has maintained and tries to never falter or deviate from it. “I start my day with morning tea with my wife while going through the newspaper. We have breakfast together as a family and then take our morning walk.

After the workday gets over, again a cup of tea with light snacks. After that, it is an hour of me time where I like to keep up with the latest advancements in the medical world, and maybe have a laugh on digital entertainment platforms. Dinner is again a family thing,” he states.

Although he tends to follow his routine, he is not against flexibility. Comparing his routine to his wife’s, he says “my wife is more of a disciplinarian, but I like a little flexibility.” Having a routine like this and sticking to it is also a part of his mantra for life.

He advises “follow your routine, do things with full honesty and best to your

capabilities, and help people. If you can’t help people, then at least don’t harm people.

Be organized in your life and be on time. Also, always be apologetic. As humans, we are allowed to make mistakes, as long as we realize them and apologize.” In an example from his own life, he mentions that he tends to get a little harsh at times, but never fails to apologize immediately.

He identifies himself as being the perfect leader and not a boss. He likes to keep things on a lighter note and encourages openness and sharing. He also mentions that along with being a teacher, he is also a learner as “you can’t teach if you don’t continue to learn.”

A God fearing man, he believes his choice of profession to be more of a decision made by the almighty.

He mentions, “I probably would have been in the administrative or civil services, but God wanted me to help people, so he made me a doctor.”



When talking about his life in the UAE, he thanks the government and authorities for providing a positive atmosphere and a platform where expats like him can live and work without feeling like an outsider. “They have provided a platform, an opportunity where they have given us the infrastructure and facilities we can benefit from. In return, they have benefited from the work we have done towards the growth of the country,” he explains.

An example of his work of giving back, he has founded a society in the UAE called SCALE, Stemi Care in All of Emirates. He shared the three objectives behind this initiative, “first is to train the nurses and

doctors as how to react fast when they encounter a heart attack. The second is to educate the general public. The third is to create a kitty of funds to make this treatment available to those who cannot afford it.”

When talking about people back in Rajasthan, he urges them to not feel like NRIs. He shares the positives of NRIs as how they open up opportunities for more and more capable Indians to move abroad, and requests people to take this in the positive way it is meant to be. He also shares how he misses not being able to spend a lot of time with his parents since moving to Dubai. He feels that he has not delivered fully as a son in that aspect. But again, to make up for

not being able to visit as much as he would like, he aims to open a free heart attack center in Ajmer, to help everyone, irrespective of financial or social status.

He ends his thoughts by thanking the almighty for making him reach where he is today, despite coming from a background where he and his family faced a lot of hardships. He also expresses his gratitude towards the Indian government and the democratic system that allowed him to pursue higher education based on sheer talent and not money. To remain humble and grounded despite everything he has achieved, he counts it as his strength and wishes to instill the same in his son.



*“The first book on me was made by my son, it was a great surprise and I still cherish that.”*









DR. MAHAVEER MEHTA  
MEDICAL CENTER

# Beautility *from* within

DR. MAHAVEER MEHTA Dermatologist

*‘Wherever the art of Medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity.’*



It is justifiably said ‘wherever the art of Medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity.’

Our sense of honor raised high when we first heard the name of Mr. Mahaveer Mehta, a medical dermatology practitioner.

Mahaveer is a simple son to a law bidden father, who had

retired from position of Judge Transport appellate authority in Rajasthan state .

After Mahaveer’s early years in Jodhpur, he shifted with his dad to Jaipur for his studies. His schooling was taken over by his medical degree that he had obtained from R&T Medical College Udaipur.

*Success comes to those who believe in hardship,  
never shy away from challenges in life. Just focus and be honest to yourself*



Further to be more proficient in his profession he studied doctorate of medicine from Ahmedabad, and took his first job as an Assistant Professor with SMS College in Jaipur itself.



After setting his foot there, he finally saw light after a dark tunnel when an offer letter from a reputed university from Libya knocked his door. In his journey of success, his wife Dr. Manu had

always walked hand in hand with him, be it during her position as Deputy CMHO, Jaipur or her practice in Libya with him.

After spending his years in Libya, his continuous efforts for betterment earned him a position as a practitioner with the Qatar Armed Forces as Head of Department of Dermatology in Military position. Where his major job responsibilities included his interactions with higher authorities of the country. During that phase, his wife Dr. Manu worked as a doctor with Qatar Police Force.

The hunger of growing further brought him to Bahrain after a span of around seven years in Qatar. The new position had a different spice. He was there

to establish the dermatology department, and drank many sips of popularity there too.

While he had worked in some of the best institutions, the thought of starting his own practice had always kept him awake even in the sleepiest hours.

The search found its way in Dubai, where his dreams grew feathers. Like any budding business, even his center took a few years to establish but his popularity was always a favorable earning.

In his life span of 72 years, he has visited more than 25 countries and treated patients of over 160 nationalities.







In the same duration his wife too had gained popularity in the community by her acts of goodness and activeness. Though she had planned to retire from her profession a few years back, she still is an active member of many social clubs. On the other hand, Mahaveer is a proud member of most of the dermatology societies around the world. He has served as a Congress President of DASIL, the USA. Seeing his active contribution, The Father of Dermatology, had appointed him as the representative of The America Society of Dermatology.

Today, Mahaveer is a proud father of a Manish. Harvard trained top Cardiologist in USA. He has six Board certified in Medicine and Cardiology . Manish was national Tennis champion under 18 in Qatar and Bahrain. He is Author of Book on Medicine and several research papers . In contrast to that, Mahaveer is also a loving supporter of his daughter Mahima's passion for dance, who runs a famous dance academy- 'MAD'

Mahaveer believes in the theory of being a caregiver, who sees selfless acts every day his mission and objective to provide highest standard of medical care to all help under privileged patients and respect medical ethics. Apart from being a successful practitioner he is also an active member of the Rotary Club and indulges into charitable acts. He believes stress to be an epidemic destroying lives, and tries his best to control it. He urges India to take a major step towards cleanliness, particularly Rajasthan and he is also willing to support the cause in whichever way possible. Through his acts, Mahaveer strives to make this world a better place to live.

Mahaveer misses the vibrancy and simplicity of Rajasthan.

### The Prestigious recognitions include:

*Dr. Mahaveer Mehta was Chairman of the Dept. of Dermatology at Qatar armed Forces medical unit and Chairman of Dermatology at International Hospital Bahrain. He has also worked as Faculty member in Al Fateh University , Tripoli, Libya and SMS medical college , Jaipur . Dr. Mehta is internationally well known in the field of Dermatology and Lasers. Pioneer in introducing Lasers to the Middle East. He is successfully practicing in Dubai since 1990.*

- Dr. Mehta is a Chair and Speaker at several international dermatological and laser conferences.
- He was Board of Director , The Dermatologic & Aesthetic Surgery International League (DASIL) 2013 -2016
- He is Congress President for annual conference DASIL Dermatology Aesthetic surgery International league, USA
- He is Chair, Scientific committee ICAAM 2013- 2016
- He is former Member advisory committee Gender Aesthetic Congress Asia 2014 organized by American Academy of Aesthetic Medicine International
- He is Mentor/Host , International Travelling Mentorship Program (ITMP), American Society of Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS).
- He is a recipient of prestigious awards such as Physician Recognition Award from American Medical Association and Continuing Medical Education Award from American Academy of Dermatology.
- He is member Editorial Board of Journal of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology USA, Member Editorial Board Journal of Procedural Dermatology and Former Member of the editorial board of Gulf medical college health journal and several other International Journals in the field of Dermatology.
- Received outstanding contribution Medal 2016 at international Dermatology conference DASIL held in October 2016 in the field of Dermatology from (ASDS) American Society of Dermatology
- Received most prestigious Congress Ambassador Award from Dubai Tourism Department for organizing ICAAM & DASIL conferences in Dubai.







# Champion *for* Holistic Growth

RAJESH S. JAIN, Director, JG Group

*“Face your greatest challenges with a smile.  
 Victory is imminent, and the journey is worthwhile.”*



“The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today”, is a theory that Rajesh Jain has followed all his life. As a boy born into a financially challenged family, Rajesh’s journey has been nothing but inspiring.

Rajesh, from Jalore, like many others in his family, kept education on the backseat, and dived right into the family business. Unable to afford a formal education, Rajesh believed that laborious real-life experiences will eventually compensate for the lack of a college degree.

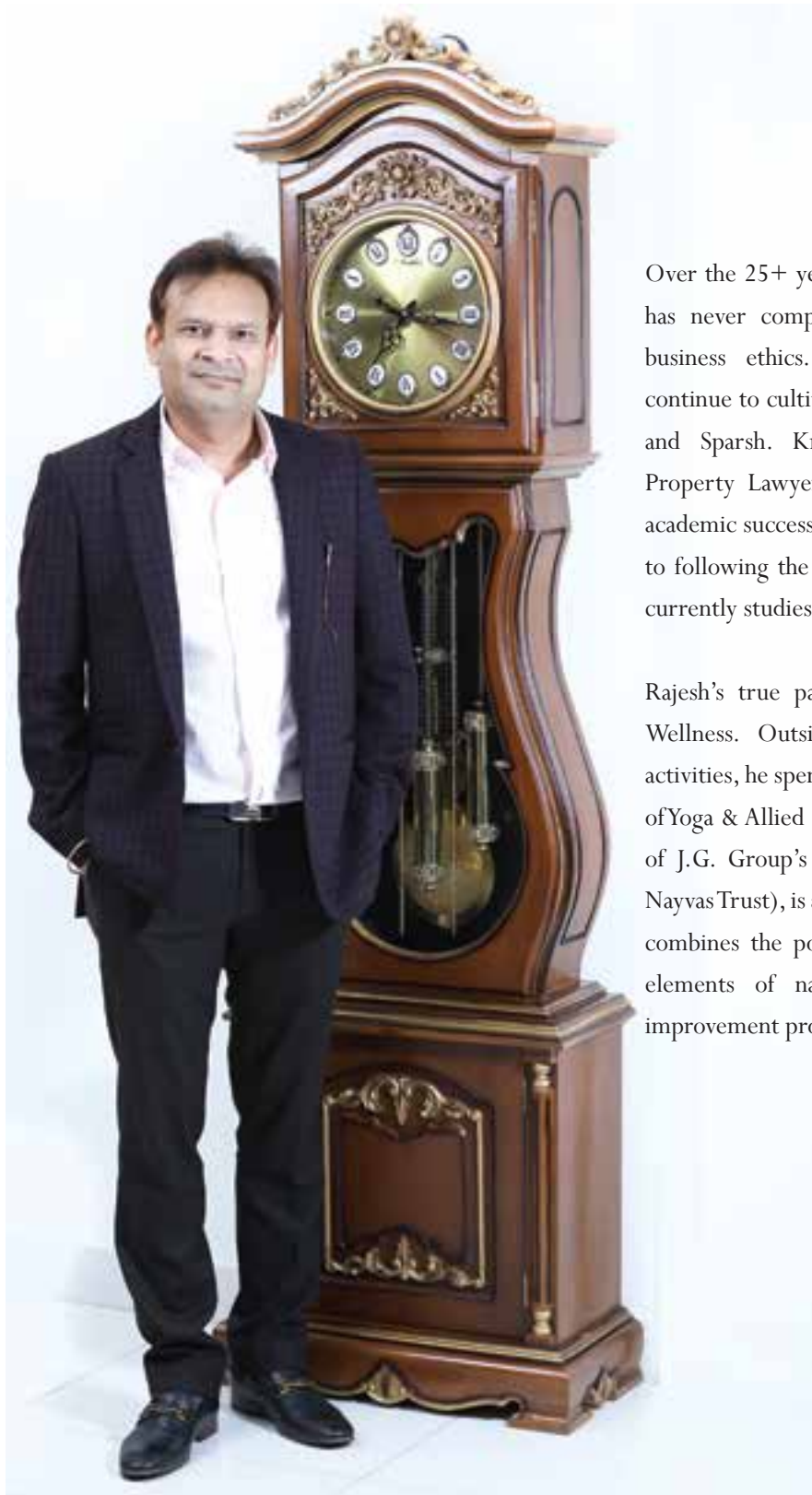
At Age 16, Rajesh decided to dive into the trading business, and spent the rest of his life to-date perfecting his art of trade. From Hong Kong to Nigeria, Rajesh ventured into several uncharted territories, making his mark as a resourceful and perceptive trader.

In the course of life, he met his wife Bhagyashree. Hailing from a humble family in Bengaluru, Bhagyashree was a woman with a strong cultural and traditional foundation. She believed strongly in the value of a cohesive family for a family business to thrive





*“Don’t be swayed by fads. Innovate on what works and optimize for it.”*



Over the 25+ years of Rajesh conducting business, he has never compromised on his familial values and business ethics. Together, Bhagyashree and Rajesh continue to cultivate the same in their children – Krati and Sparsh. Krati, a now practicing Intellectual Property Lawyer in New Delhi, has achieved great academic success in the UK & the US. Sparsh, on track to following the footsteps of his father & grandfather, currently studies as an undergraduate in the USA.

Rajesh’s true passion lies in Spirituality & Holistic Wellness. Outside of running day-to-day business activities, he spends most of his time on Prajna Institute of Yoga & Allied Sciences (PIYAS). PIYAS, an initiative of J.G. Group’s Surajbai Sardarmal Navyas Trust (SS Nayvas Trust), is a unique Wholistic wellness center that combines the power of modern medicine and the 5 elements of nature. PIYAS’s customized lifestyle improvement programs is the key to a better way of life.



The center aims to treat the whole person, rather than providing a single treatment approach for health & wellness challenges. PIYAS’s highly customized programs serve as a lasting solution for millions, creating a life of balance for families all over the world. Rajesh hopes to use his experiences to empower other families to live well too, while supporting future generations to further develop the mission. A dream project for Rajesh and the family, PIYAS takes decades of personal experience & wisdom and endeavors to continue J.G. Groups mission to provide holistic value to all its stakeholders. ‘Vasudhaiva Kutambakam’ - the world is one family, and PIYAS aims to use over 70 years of experience to help families shed their karmas to attain eternal bliss.

He believes holiness isn’t preached by any religion rather it is in the sense of gratitude among human beings.







His exploration into the world of modern medicine, Ayurveda, meditation and yoga has led him to realize that leveraging the 5 Elements of Nature (Earth, Air, Fire, Water, Space) is the key to a truly happy life. He believes that “healing is not an art, but rather a biological process.”

He has a desire to contribute in making a healthy world by bringing a revolution in medicinal industry. Wants to share to all, believes in “vasudhaiva kutumbakam” has a big center in Bangalore, to heal in naturopathy and disciplined manner.

Rajesh has been keenly working towards the same, but looks forward for an open support from the UAE Government. He feels that the contribution of Indian community in shaping the UAE economy is high and the favors that the Government has returned, still needs to be matched.

He feels liberated among his family members, and looks forward to sharing his life experiences with his children. In the competition of accomplishments, he considers himself to be a perpetual learner. He strives each day to be a boss and lead his work family.

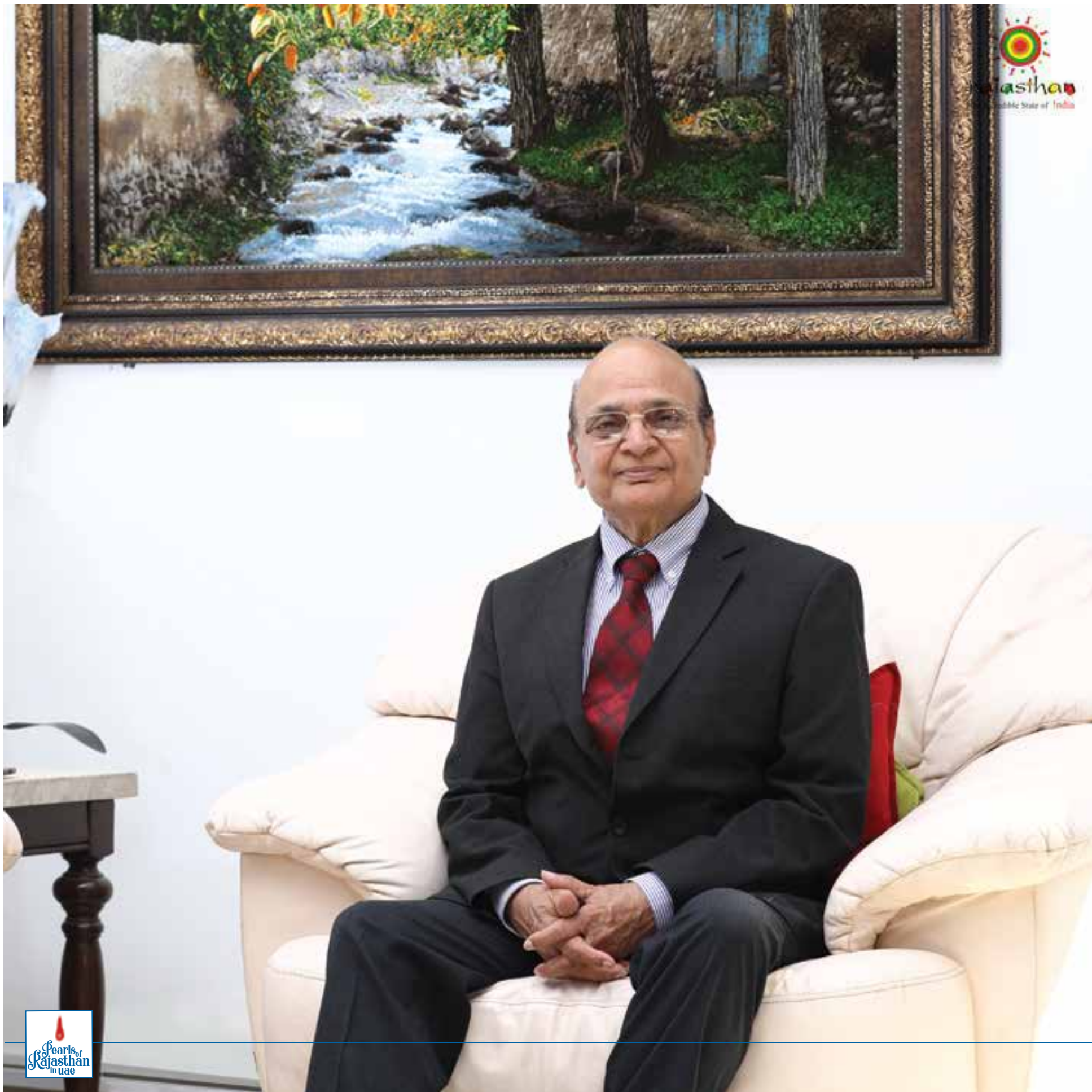
Life has been a smooth alleyway, but his speech would never show arrogance, and he feels gratified to his upbringing for the same. He is still working to shape his yearning for bridging a gap in the society.

He wants the new generation to be a contributor to the society instead of being a puppet of its abstractions. It is a wonderful experience to get a chance to know a man of no sugar laced words, but a man of his own acts.

Rajesh doesn’t believe in missing any part of Rajasthan as he mentions that every part of him is Rajasthani – as he keep travelling to the state for many of his commitments.

For such achievements- JG Group is recently been awarded as “TIMES EMERGING ICONS” -2019







# Getting hold of nerves

DR. SANTOSH KUMAR SHARMA, Neurosurgeon

*“Just keep learning and striving to be better every day.  
Take pride in your work. Always learn and help others.”*



A humble man hailing from Jaipur, Rajasthan, a bright student, a stellar performer, an innovator, a pioneer, a miracle worker. These are just a few ways to describe Dr. Santosh Sharma.

*“Just keep learning and striving to be better every day. Take pride in your work. Always learn and help others.”*

“After I finished my high school at the age of 13+ and my graduation in Medicine, I wanted to pursue higher training in the field of

Neurosurgery,” he mentions nonchalantly. While contemplating a move to Vellore or New Delhi, an offer from England materialized, which was too good to pass. Soon he was married and on his way to the UK, Seema & Santosh.

“I spent around a decade in England specializing in Neurosurgery. It was during this time that I became the first Indian in the UK to obtain the prestigious FRCSE (Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh) in Surgical Neurology,” he shares.





*“greatness is all around,  
we only miss to see  
because of our attitudes”*



He chose to move back to Rajasthan to be with his parents and joined SDM Hospital at Jaipur, where he performed Rajasthan's first ever micro-vascular surgery on a patient with brain hemorrhage due to rupture of an aneurysm.

After 3 years, another opportunity came knocking on his door, this time from the UAE. “Apart from being closer to India, Tawam Hospital, Al Ain is also a teaching hospital, so not only did I get to practice neurosurgery, but I also taught medicine as an Assistant Professor,” he says giving a glimpse into his desire to teach.

“Having spent 6 years at Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, I went for just over a year to England & USA (Spine Fellowship). Ministry Of Health, Abu Dhabi offered me to come back and join Mafraq Hospital to lead as Head of Neurosurgery Department,” he says. I was also Associate Professor at GMC, Ajman. It was during this decade long stint at Mafraq Hospital that he came across the case of the Sudanese Conjoined Twins. “I took the lead on the neurosurgery and contributed four hours separating the twins at the spine, in an overall 17-hour long surgery,” he says.

He met Dr. C R. Shetty and Dr. B R Shetty during this time. He was then offered to establish a neurosurgery department in NMC Specialty Hospital in Abu Dhabi where he worked for six enjoying years. He was then offered the esteemed position as Medical Director of NMC Hospital, DIP, Dubai and to establish and develop the Neurosurgery Department. “The NMC Royal Hospital has been operating for five years since I joined and is growing beyond our expectations. A personal highlight was when I was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

*“Rajasthan taught me to be sincere and passionate in life. So my message is the same. Shortcuts never help. Be sincere and passionate about anything you do,”*

He credits his wife, Seema, for his achievements saying, “along with her job as a teacher, she raised our lovely sons Sumeet and Vaibhav amazingly while I was involved with my busy schedule. She continues to be my unshaken pillar of support.”

“Rajasthan taught me to be sincere and passionate in life. My message is the same: shortcuts never help. Be sincere and passionate with everything you do,”

“Greatness is all around us, we only miss to see it because of our attitudes”

When talking about the contributions of Indians in the UAE, he simply exclaims, “It’s fantastic! Indians have done so much for the UAE, be it in labor, medicine, engineering or business in general.” He does not forget to mention that the UAE has responded amazingly to Indians and “they allotted the land for a temple, the ties with Indians have never been better,” he shares.

Talking about the magic mantra, he simply states,

“There is no mantra as such. Just keep learning and striving to be better every day. Take pride in your work. Always learn and help others.” He prefers to maintain a balance between his work and his family life. He enjoys taking vacations and traveling with his family and is adamant about taking care of his health. “We relax, travel, and spend time together.

A health club membership is a must in our family,” he explains. Photography has been one of his passions, something that not only captures time with his family but also helps him document cases for his students and presentation. When asked about Rajasthan and people from there, he defines them as “highly affectionate.”

Although his wife Seema, enjoys cooking, they still miss the local delicacies, the streets and colorful celebrations of Rajasthan. This fondness extends to their children who together as family celebrate their roots by wearing traditional Rajasthani attire and celebrating occasions with loved ones.









# Giving back *by the* numbers

ANIL BAJAJ, Proprietor, PALMY FZE

*Rooted on steady ground, a tree spreads it's branches.*



A native to the Churu district of Rajasthan, Anil Bajaj is a member of the 5th generation of a reputed family of industrialists from the Marwari community.

Originally from Churu, Anil's grandfather moved to Nagda, Madhya Pradesh, for business. Similarly, rest of the family tree began spreading its roots all over the country. Historically

speaking, Churu has always been a trading hub, the town from which silver reached other parts of ancient India and the place which appears in the newspapers for experiencing the hottest days and the coldest nights of the year. Amidst all this, stands the ancestral 'haveli' to this extended family of more than 200 members, which, after remaining vacant for a while, was transformed into a Dharamshala in 1977-78

*“Being in large family, encouraged me to go out and explore more”*

Managed by the Hiralal Madanlal Bajaj Charity Trust, this Dharamshala was, by far, the best in the region during its time and wasn't run with any profit motives. Unfortunately, the establishment couldn't withstand the corruptions over time and, alongside its waning importance, the Dharamshala was eventually shut down.

In 2011, the property was turned into a charitable eye hospital with advanced equipment necessary for providing proper eye care to the people of Churu and beyond. Till date, the facility has treated about 81,500 outdoor patients and performed surgeries on 2,555 others.

Even after having travelled the world and built a good life for himself in Dubai, Anil still participates actively in running the hospital. In fact, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that charity runs in the veins of Anil Bajaj.

When cracks appeared in the extended Bajaj family, Anil decided to withdraw from the family business and start a business of his own. His father, the late Vishwanathji Bajaj is the “biggest influence” in his life. Before establishing his equipment supply firm in Dubai's oil and gas industry, Anil resided for about 20 years in Muscat. There, he worked in the medical industry with Johnson & Johnson.

In speaking of the bond between the countries, Anil feels that "the relationship between India and UAE and all of Middle East, is not only a matter of a few decades but goes back centuries. Indians have always had cultural and industrial influences in this region”.

He also believes that Indians are integral to UAE's developments and, to reinstate his conviction, points out that Dirham is colloquially referred to as Rupiya even today.

Although his father – the late Viswanathji Bajaj – is his “biggest influence”.







Saroj Bajaj, Anil's wife is a freelance market researcher among many other things, is originally from Laxmangarh, Rajasthan and has played a pivotal role in this unique success story.

Akin to Anil, Saroj also had a fluid childhood and grew up in many places - starting from Assam then Kolkata and finally Mumbai. Her three siblings and mother still stay as a joint family in Mumbai.

Saroj praises her father-in-law for encouraging her to pursue the corporate world. She believes

in simple living, high thinking of modernisation with authentic traditional manner.

Anil and Saroj are global citizens in the truest sense of the term. Yet, in their reminiscence, they miss "the soil of Rajasthan, its culture, its tastes, its smells" and all that there is.

The one thing that saddens them about their native land, is the lack of exposure given to its people, both internally and externally.

If only this was ensured, Anil is sure that the people of Rajasthan would achieve new heights.







# **W**riting *history with* poetry

ASHIQUE HUSAIN, Managing Director, Tanzeem International L.L.C

*“Dubai is the perfect example of how a city should be run on a corporate basis. The best combination of East meeting west,”*



Ashique Husain was born in the magical City of Lakes, Udaipur. At the tender age of four, he relocated to Mumbai with his father and ended up making this city his own. He completed his education while working night shifts in a textile mill. “After graduation, I received my first job offer from Tatas. My financial circumstances, pushed me to take it up and that’s where my career officially began,” explains Ashique. The move, however, transformed into a blessing, as he completed

his Masters from Bombay University, while working and then got the opportunity to move to Iran, thanks to his multilingual skills. “I was offered a job as the economic and financial advisor in a bank, and later became the Deputy Managing Director with in a short span of five years,” he beams with pride. He shifted to Dubai for a job with Al-Futtaim, before entering the business world of Non-Ferrous metals in 1989.



“ मंजिल की जुस्तजू में इतना न तेज़ भाग  
मंजिल हो सामने और रुक जाये तेरी सांस ”

“Dubai is the perfect example of how a city should be run on a corporate basis. The best combination of East meeting west,” he explains, this is the main reason for settling in a city as cosmopolitan as Dubai. After seeing this wonderful city grow in front of his own eyes, he can’t resist but say: “I can make money while having my beliefs, my religion, my society, and my values.

Tolerance is the need of the hour in the contemporary world deeply divided, but Dubai has practiced and cherished the values of tolerance since day one welcoming and embracing every one with open arms. “The man is never short on words or lessons as he describes his magic mantra as “A life of contentment.”

“I believe that one should never bite more than he can chew. Have your parameters defined and never run so much that you run out of breath in the long run,” he enlightens. He believes and practices, that one should strive to earn sufficient money so that he can eat the money earned and not to amass so much, that money

eats him. A man wise beyond his years, he defines himself as a perpetual learner and a leader. “Just learning is not enough. One should share the lessons with others, then learning has some meaning,” he mentions. He follows the principle of sharing his knowledge and experience with his children and he acknowledges that he still advises them.

He also shares his secret of maintaining a healthy work-life balance. “I start my day with morning prayers and I work at least eight hours every day. I spend evenings with my family and get at least two hours of reading done before bed,” he shares, while sharing his love for poetry and fictional books, along with his passion for economics.

A highly spiritual man, he also talks about faith in the Almighty. “It doesn’t matter in which form you see him, as long as your faith is strong. For me, a prayer is a form of meditation and a way to talk to the higher power,” he explains. Along with being grateful to God, he doesn’t forget to mention his gratefulness to

his wife, Zehra “She has sacrificed a lot and adjusted for me. I come from a very humble background, while she is from a well-to-do family, but she never batted an eye when I asked her to move from a 3BHK house to a chawl,” he describes as to how she has always had his back, even during a crisis.

The message that this wise man has is the same one he learned in his youth, “Always put emphasis on your values rather than money. Believe in morality and never forget to give back to society.”





*“Just learning is not enough. One should share the lessons with others, then learning has some meaning,”*

Reminiscing his childhood, he keeps visiting Udaipur so he doesn't miss his native hometown. The uniqueness, simplicity, hospitality, and colors of Rajasthan cannot be duplicated, according to him. “People in Rajasthan are unadulterated and still hold their values close to them. A Rajput will always be a Rajput,”

Ashique's two children have also absorbed his values and have worked hard to make their parents proud. His elder daughter Tasneem lives in Sydney (Australia) with her husband Raaj and their 12 year-old son Roshan. She has her father's way with words and is a lecturer at one of the prominent universities in Sydney, while his son-in-law is a senior professional consultant in the IT industry.

Ashique's son, Nadeem was previously in the United States with his family, but chose to return to his parents. He has his father's acumen for business and runs a successful zinc galvanizing operation in

the UAE. Nadeem, his wife Nisreen their kids, son Aamir and daughter- Zahra are a huge support to Ashique and Zehra and bring immeasurable love and joy to them.

When asked about their father, both children were unanimous that their father has always led by example. Growing up, they watched their father work very hard for not just them but the whole extended family and they have learnt the values of family, love, respect, money and integrity from their father.

According to the Tasneem, she has tried to emulate Ashique all her life and always will.

“The one thing, other than money, that makes dad richer, is the respect from everyone who know him, be it in the form of a business man, friend, parent and above all a humble human being” states Nadeem



*“वही हो कर रहेगा दोस्तों जो कुछ भी होना है यह दुनिया के लिए बेकार रोना और धोना है.  
अमल अच्छे करो दुनिया में यह बेहतर कसौटी है, कसौटी खुद बतादेगी यह पीतल है या सोना है”*





# Family, Society, Self

*Living every bit of* Life

MURLI ODHRANI, Chairman, Petrotech Enterprises FZE

*“Its never too late to be different, try to come out of your block”*



It is said that one should never forget where they come from, irrespective of where they reach. This statement holds true for Murli Odhrani. Coming from an extremely humble background in Jaipur, he has risen to his current position of being able to help society, thanks to his parents' blessings and values, his wife's Rajni Odhrani, support, and his children's love. The values are well on display in his son, Bharat Odhrani, who shows great respect to his father, Murli Odhrani's legacy.

Bharat has helped to expand the family business further, and is determined to keep following his father's footsteps to further that legacy. He describes his father as a true patriot who wants to do everything he can for the society and the needy.

Same as Murli, who created a unique name which shows the bond in the family, thus the name "ANMOL" which stands for Ashok, Nari, Murli Of Lekhraj .





Being a part of many businesses, Murli has dedicated everything to his parents and family. With the desire to support the community and with the help of his family, they started Smt. Mohinidevi Lekhraj Odhrani Charitable Trust Hospital. The hospital's initial focus was kidney transplants, but today it is a multi-disciplinary hospital, with a great name in the pink city of Rajasthan - Jaipur. Another venture the family owns is a boutique Hotel "Grand Chanakya", Jaipur.

Murli's main aim is to give back to his motherland India, as well as Dubai, where he has grown. He truly believes in working towards the betterment of the

people. He doesn't describe success as how much money or luxury one has, but how much peace of mind one has. "At the end of the day, if you have a family to go back to and a clear and calm mind, you only need patience to be successful," he describes his magic mantra.

Talking about giving back to society, he shares his own story from his childhood when he was in such a situation where he did not have money to even afford trousers to go to school and had to make do with borrowed shirts to fight off the cold weather. Having started as an office boy, he never forgets those days and they serve as his motivation to give back to

society. His parents told him to never stop giving back, and always do something for the less fortunate. Murli has imbibed this by helping the needy in the form of facilitating their weddings and important functions, and supporting the handicapped children.

Building on that, he talks about his on-going project, education for the under privileged children. The thought of providing education finds its roots in his own school days. "I admire what my parents did for us with less than limited means. They were able to do that, but that doesn't mean everyone will be able to. So I want to help those who cannot," he shares his dream.

*"I admire what my parents did for us with less than limited means. They were able to do that, but that doesn't mean everyone will be able to. So I want to help those who cannot,"*





*“I have been in the UAE for over 40 years, but if given a choice, I would still choose Jaipur over Dubai,”*

Identifying himself as a learner and a leader who likes to guide everyone, from family to staff, he believes in treating everyone like family. He feels doing this results in those people coming forward and sharing without any inhibitions.

A man who keeps his family close, he dearly misses his home in Jaipur. “I have been in Dubai, UAE for over 40 years, but if given a choice, I would still choose

Jaipur over Dubai,” he says with nostalgia. The reason for such attachment is found in the love and affection he receives from the people of Rajasthan. Having said that, he has a lot of praises for the visionary Rulers of the UAE and is grateful for all the opportunities this country has provided him.

Always thinking about society, his message to the people of Rajasthan is the same. He urges them to

come together and form such an ecosystem in the state where the more affluent people help out the needy in aspects of education, job assistance and any other way that enables them to find means and earn their living. “I am willing to be involved myself in this and help form such a society, but I think this is something that can be achieved more easily and effectively if people decide to come together,” he says as he parts with these pearls of wisdom.









# Work Hard live smart

RAKESH BHARGAVA, Director, Al Hamad Aluminium Extrusion Company

*“Always try to put your cards smartly and timely”*



The royal city of Bikaner has been home to many achievers. One of them who has realized acclaim beyond boundaries is Rakesh Bhargava. This Bikaner man had a very normal childhood till he moved to Jaipur to pursue his engineering. Living in a country where cricket is like a religion and playing for the country means much more than a mere

competition, Rakesh reluctantly passed on an opportunity to play for the Duleep Trophy to concentrate on his career in metallurgical engineering. Later on, however, much to everyone's surprise, he went on the play hockey at the district level. But little did he know that his destiny had something else in store for him.

*“Work is work, I never shy away from doing any job, sometimes I go to check machines myself.”*



After completing his studies, he got his first break in Bhiwadi in 1985 where he stayed for a couple of years before moving to Hyderabad, and then to Dubai.

While talking about the UAE and his journey here, he recollects how difficult his first two years were. “Without having a driving license and working for a company set in a place with no proper conveyance, it was really tricky in the beginning to get business and get more clients. I had to bring in a team of 10 people from India to support my endeavours,” he says. The dynamics of a business in the UAE being significantly different from India took a toll on Rakesh initially but later he understood the art and eventually mastered it.

He mentions how the Government in the UAE has provided facilities to people, especially from the Indian community to set up and run a business with comfort and ease. This, in his opinion, is an effort from the officials to acknowledge the contribution of the Indian community in shaping how Dubai is today. “Indians are highly respected here, and while running a business may be different, the Government has provided all the necessary facilities,” he admits.

When asked to define himself as a learner or a teacher, being his modest self, he says that it he is a simple person who likes to work hard with honesty and likes to give back to the society wherever he can. This is exactly what he defines as his magic mantra - hard work, and honesty. “As long as you work hard and use your common sense, success cannot be far behind,” he affirms.



*“Give the best to your next generation,  
they will carry your name and fame together”*



Just like him, his wife, Ira Bhargava, also believes in working hard and contributing to the society. A commercial artist and a graphic designer, she is very much active in the society and is closely connected with the decision makers at the Indian Consulate to facilitate further developments. She also runs Al Sakhra Electrical Plumbing and Contracting, UAQ, finding motivation from her husband, she prefers working quietly without making much noise. She is very active in Social life supporting various causes to

blue collar workers. Ira also conduct various health camps including on International YOGA Day. Their daughter Krati is an Mechanical Engineer and working in Whirlpool, USA as Global Technology Project Manager. She has been awarded many times for innovations in engineering. The family has one thing in common, keep learning and keep giving back to society.

Having a support from Ira allows Rakesh to immerse himself in his work. “I like to get involved in sports

but my work rarely leaves any time for any hobbies,” he admits. Despite being highly involved in his work life, he never forgets his hometown and misses the childhood days he spent there playing with his friends on the streets.

He concludes with a message that “if anyone wants to achieve anything, hard work, focus, and objective is needed because any amount of hard work is rendered irrelevant if there is no objective.”







# A Real *meaning of* Development

ANUPAM LUNAVAT, Vogue International, RMD Board

*“I operate an open-door policy in my company,  
workers can come in at any time and discuss their problems”.*



The legend of Midas touch tells us about the touch that turns anything into solid gold. Similar is the story of the Amravati-born Anupam Lunavat, a true Rajasthani at heart. With their roots in an agricultural family from Rajasthan, his family owned more than 12,000 acres of land at a point of time before it was diluted by the government policies. So he is not a

stranger to an honest day's work and has always been motivated to find his own way to strike gold. Anupam has always refused to be boxed in. Even as a student while his friends went to high-profile universities around the globe to study, he decided to study at his home town and he insists that's what helped him become the success he is today.



## *“We must go with time”*

“I got to learn science in college, which is useful when it comes to researching products, but because I lived at home, I picked up the best lessons about business from people who have decades of experience in trading – my father Mr. Premchand Lunavat, and later my father-in-law Mr. Rasiklal Manikchand Dhariwal, all businessmen.”

I named it RMD board as a tribute to my mentor, my father-in-law Rasiklal Manikchand Dhariwal, who I still look to for advice. After his family’s land got diluted, the Lunavat family decided to move into the industrial sector and started their own flour mill. After starting there, he worked his way to being in the stock market and succeeding to become a stockbroker. After tasting

small successes, he spotted an opportunity in the booming real estate market in Bengaluru where he got his first major success. “It was then that we, my wife and myself, came across a defunct packaging company in Dubai, which we bought off in a court auction and ended up turning it around to one of the biggest packaging suppliers in the Gulf region,” he shares.

While talking about his own success story, he acknowledges the success achieved by the very first Indians who made it big in the UAE. “Before Dihram even came, the currency was Rupee here. So the rulers here have immense respect for the Indians as they know Indians have done a lot to shape the UAE as it is today,” he says. With his contributions also becoming part of the

rich history, he still sees a lot of potential for growth in Dubai.

He talks about his father-in-law, his source of inspiration, who is the man behind his magic mantra. “He always told me that I should reach work before my employees and leave after everyone as this will help me learn who the ones worth my trust,” he shares. It is because of this mantra he is able to define himself as a combination of a leader and a boss. He also believes in learning throughout his life.

“I operate an open-door policy in my company. Workers can come in at any time and discuss their problems. If they are contributing to our progress then I believe their issues deserve a just hearing“.







With his wife, Kalpana Lunavat, being his partner at work managing the entire packaging division and the HR roles and responsibilities, she is a devoted spiritual and simplified women, who believes “we must go with time”. On the other hand she is also a great host who doesn’t miss her culinary golden touch, which we also see in her daughter Sanyukta.

Because of their balance routine the couple is able to focus on work and manage their personal life as well, for them family time is very vital, that’s why they keep things simple and systematic.

Anupam likes to relax and rest when at home. On

the other hand, his wife likes to socialize with her friends and get herself involved in some social work by drawing inspiration from her father.

The lovely couple has most of their family members living in Dubai, but still, they miss their roots and relatives in India. While Anupam talks about missing street food apart from relatives, his better half simply mentions she misses her parents and school friends while living a beautiful life in the UAE.

Their daughters Nikita, Rashi, are married and youngest Sanyukta is bright young energetic entrepreneur, helping in family business.







# Sowing Seeds *for* just right needs

NILESH JAIN, Founder, Just Right FZCO



Born in a trading business family of Jodhpur, Nilesh Jain was brought up in the bustling city of Mumbai, but never forgot his Rajasthani roots, thanks to his parents and values provided by them. His father, Jayant Jain, started the trading business in 1968 in the bylanes of Pydhonie at a very humble level. But the business rose to prominence and metamorphosed when Nilesh Jain joined the erstwhile company in India. To the level, where they invested and partnered with LG and DuPont.







They set up offices in Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, and decided to venture into the international market marking Jain's entry in the Middle East, which eventually became his mainstay. This journey began when he arrived in Dubai with just \$542 in his pocket, emboldened with hardships, he proved his mettle by emerging triumphant in the end. He set up a 550-square meter LIU space in Jebel Ali and forayed in the global plastic industry, which transformed into a 117,000-square meter empire in Dubai.

One of the core factors which has influenced the growth of Just Right has been the ability and the quick turnaround time to launch innovative end-products. "Since our inception, Research and Development has been our top priority, Year after year, we have stepped-up investment in this area of business to achieve competency. It lends us the ability to leverage existing technologies to develop innovative solutions." Started as a mere trading house, the name of the group came about when Jain diversified into plastic manufacturing. Bullish about its prospects, the main aim was to provide just the right solutions to the burgeoning industries.

"We are strategically headquartered in Jebel Ali Free Zone, giving us access to EMEA and APAC markets. The growth of the trading vertical helped us expedite entry into the plastic manufacturing industry," he explains. Today, Just Right FZCO not only houses plastic production but also processes and compounds plastic earning the group a green status, promoting full circular sustenance. The group has paved the path for a first-ever closed-loop recycled plastics supply chain. They have achieved zero wastage in their

Acrylic arm, with support from partners Mitsubishi, Arkema and Evonik.

"Trash to treasure," Jain exclaims. Inspired by Samsung's founding business, Just Right has engineered to ingest plastic waste and convert them to end-monomers channelized to manufacturers, reducing overall carbon footprint. "Production of plastic has come at a breakneck pace. This initiative aids in value creation and enables us to save resources," adds Jain. "These capabilities have anchored competitive value chains empowering trade partners," says Jain. The firm is also a recipient of the 'Plastic Recycling of the Year' award. The firm is upstreaming by venturing into e-commerce, and has organically grown by vertically integrating in both facets of the supply chain.

"We have stayed contemporary with a vision well-focused on the future." Jain credits his management as "Each and every project that has been accomplished bears the imprint of seamless support put in by the team.

Just Right was founded on the principles of mutual respect and appreciation of human capital. They are the key strength of the business."The firm has boosted employment by 510% since inception and has an equal women to men ratio. Successful enterprises have inspired philanthropy, "Among Rajasthani's from times immemorial" he adds, and "Just Right is no different." The group has a strong sense of social commitment, and they have extended capabilities towards the development of people, education, and healthcare driven by the objective of inclusive growth.





Looking back at his journey, reflecting on the obstacles and pivotal moments, he says “It is all about optimism and attitude. The key catalyst for success is having a growth mindset and striving towards innovation.” As a spiritual believer, he also advises to not chase materialistic things and emphasizes on appreciating and respecting nature and everything created by the almighty. He stresses on the importance of family values as “these values are the ones that can be passed on to the next generation.”

His better half, Kalpana Jain, is a trained classical dancer and is also deeply involved in the business. “I do not feel the need for a work-life balance thanks to our supporting children and Nilesh, it never feels as if both are separate entities,” she said. “We all have clear definitions as to our roles within the firm. I have been closely working our

people and operations, and conceptualize projects that bring about a change in their lives and living,” she adds further “We have been in our seventh edition of Right Parivaar, an initiative where we give our people a platform to mobilize their creative flair.” Returning the favor, her kids and husband describe her as great human, always ready to take initiatives and balance it in a very practical manner.

While talking about modern day life and its contrast to the past, Kalpana is transported to the olden days and shares her love for Rajasthani culture, customs, and traditions. While Nilesh reminisces about the food “some of my fondest memories of Rajasthan are eating delicious home-cooked meals, with dollops of ghee and goodness.” he shares. Both of them miss the culture and people of Rajasthan, and its plethora of diversity. “We have preserved

our haveli in Rajasthan, and ensure it is has not lost its earthen charm,” he adds. “Our kids love visiting Rajasthan and appreciate its heritage and history,” says Kalpana.

An accomplished entrepreneur in his own right, Jain reiterates his family for being the prime source of inspiration. Blessed with two daughters and a son, life it seems has given him all that he could ask for. Their daughters, Harshita and Drishti are also adding value in the family business and son Jay is studying Management and Entrepreneurship in the United Kingdom. Harshita completed her education in New York while Drishti studied in England and is armed with a degree in Finance. Upon Jay’s graduation, comes fresh impetus to the business making it scale to greater heights in the years to come. Nilesh urges them to create opportunities to help society, and take initiatives where resources are scarce.











# Common man Uncommon story

PREM VERMA, VP- Sales & Leasing, Perfect Range Real Estate

*“I borrowed a pen and applied for the job and got an offer two days later,”*

Prem Verma’s story is the perfect way to show anyone what hard work and sincerity can achieve without having to resort to shortcuts. Born in Jaipur, he lost his father just six months after his birth. Growing up in a very poor family, he has his uncle to thank for being able to get a good education. The beginning for him is in a really small living room with no lights and studying under the street light and talking tuitions when he was in school to make it possible for him to study.

His mom was just a cook in a school making mid day meals, those are the odds he survived. All this because he was focused and determined

It was his

amazing luck that he landed a job by sheer coincidence after his graduation, due to a month-long strike in Jaipur secretariat.

“I borrowed a pen and applied for the job and got an offer two days later,” he shares. Due to the financial circumstances not permitting him to pursue his masters, he knew he needed to work his way in life.

Soon after, he married to Vimala and was studying to complete his law graduation while working at the secretariat.

His cousin was living in Dubai as his uncle had moved there as an architect. He asked them to take him along as he wanted to have a taste of that life. “I was advised against it because I had a government job, but I was willing to take that risk,” he says.

*“Always, stand up for your rights”.*



His real journey began when he landed in Dubai along with his wife. His cousin got him an administrative job in his company, where he stayed for a couple of years before moving for better career growth.

“I was interviewed and got a job as a salesman, and then promoted within a year. But the atmosphere at that firm was not conducive to growth, so I quit,” he describes in a nutshell.

He had bought a shop where he used to manage a departmental store along with his job. But after he quit, his visa was revoked for six months as per the laws then. He left his wife and kids in Dubai and came back to India for those 6 months, while his wife

managed the departmental store in his absence.

He moved back to Dubai after six months and instantly bought another store while looking for a job. “I used to work for the company in the day and manage my shops in the evening. I saw my kids awake only on Fridays as I was always working,” he shares his sacrifices.

Prem has over 30 yrs experience in the FMCG companies. He worked and managed the stores till 2015, all the while providing his children a good education and supporting their dreams. Today his elder son, Shailendra is an IT Engineer settled in US and another son Sachin is an Orthodontist in Dubai.

Prem is a man of principle, who believes in ethics and system, once he even got duped by an employee in his firm. He went all the way to Indian and Middle East media with patience and dedication, where he won a legal battle with the help of the Dubai judiciary and media, says “stand up for your rights”.





He decided to retire in 2015, “I had retired but after so many years, I had become a workaholic who could not stay at home and do nothing, so I founded a real estate firm with a couple of people,” he grins.

Despite not having anything to work for, this hard-working man still works as he knows no other way to live life. He is a perpetual learner and says that he tries to find learnings in everything he does. He

describes a leader as an engine of a train, someone who takes the rest along.

His message to people is the same he has applied throughout his life, “work hard with all sincerity and without shortcuts and any goal is achievable.” Vimala, his wife, has a complementing message of “learning as much as possible.” Highly connected to his roots, he misses his city of Jaipur dearly, while he has created

such a home for his wife that she just misses her family and cultural values from her native place.

*“Enjoy the journey and try to get better every day. Don't lose the passion and the love for what you do.”*







# When fortune follows passion

SN SAXENA, Managing Director SILGO Group

*“One should follow in, simple living high thinking”*



“Freedom of work” being his mantra, Shahzad N Saxena is no stranger to hard work coupled with passion and dedication, making him the eminent businessman that he is today. His humble approach to life’s offerings is displayed in his philosophy of being a “perpetual learner”, propels him towards success, giving him a grounded and genuine personality.





*“Time always teach  
you something  
keep yourself easy and free,  
you never know what  
life has to offer”*



Born and raised in bustling Delhi of Rajasthani roots, with six siblings of which he is youngest of two brothers. Shahzad first started work as an Assistant Architect in the capital city itself, at the Sikand and Associates Company. His talent soon got him an offer to work on the very prestigious Baghdad University project as an Assistant Architect in Iraq.

Unfortunately, before he could enjoy the novel experience, the Iraq-Iran war necessitated his leave. Shahzad moved to the UAE in the year 1982, as an Architect cum Quantity Surveyor at a leading construction and design company in Sharjah.

The hands-on experience and hard work paid off, and in 1985 he managed to start his very own company in Sharjah, which he named Silgo Contracting Company. After that, there was no looking back. From starting his first construction company in Dubai in 2003/4 to expanding into other sectors of the construction

industry such as Interiors, Trading, Property Development and so on, his only aim in life has been, put in his own words, to “provide our clients a one-stop solution for all their construction and property development needs.”

Currently Shahzad has multiple businesses across the UAE and India. He speaks very fondly of the opportunities and the space that the UAE has provided to Indians to develop their businesses within a family-friendly and safe environment, making it, as he says, “very easy for Indians to call it their home.”

However, despite flying so high, Shahzad misses his roots in India, and the fun times with his siblings and friends. Given the opportunity, he would love to reprise those precious moments with them. As a family-oriented man, his social life consists of spending time with his loved ones, making his home the center-stage of his “me-time.”





The other pillar of his small family his wife Mamta the loving mother to son -Amrit and daughter- Aashna, is a simple and happy calm person, without any complications. Never having expected much from life, she considers her husband and children to be beautiful blessings from God, and feels thankful. Every successful person is an inspiration for her and she carries her simplicity into her relationship with her children.


She says, “We have a very healthy relationship and they freely say what

they feel.” Born in Varanasi, UP, and having travelled all across India due to her father’s transferable job from Rajasthan to UP to West Bengal, her life started in reality after her marriage and shift to Dubai. Though she is very content with her family and the Indian community in Dubai, sometimes, like her husband, she misses her siblings back in India.

This unique teaming of focused work with a serene family life is the perfect approach that lets Shahzad emerge victorious in every enterprise.







# Calculating *the* rhythm of life

TARUN RAMCHANDANI, Finance and Investment Expert

*“I like to be the best and keep improving. That is what keeps me going.”*

It is said that the toughest of circumstances shape the best of humans and this holds true for Tarun Ramchandani, a young and energetic banker living in Dubai. From pranking his teacher in school and starting his first job at the age of 12, to pay off his father's home loan, this boy from Bhilwara has come a long way to reach where he is today.

Living in a joint setting of a lower middle-class family, his father separated with not a penny to his name except for

a grocery store. Tarun started working along with his studies to assist his father and soon bought a house on loan. Despite having such limited means and such hard times, he never let go of his passions, dancing and playing cricket. “I have performed on stage several times in India and in Dubai, and have won many of those shows.

I have also played cricket till U-19 domestic level, but my financial circumstances weren't ever ripe enough to allow me to take either of them professionally,” he shares.



*“Happiness is all within you, it depends how you finds it”.*



Talking about making his way to Dubai, he acknowledges the respect for Indians in the UAE. “Indians have made a name for themselves by being hard-working, having a good IQ level, being disciplined and respecting the rules of the land. The values of Indians precede them and hence they end up earning the respect wherever they migrate to,” he shares feeling a sense of pride. Indians make up for 40% of the population in the UAE and that is the biggest contributing factor in shaping the country, according to him.

After making his way to Dubai, he not only achieved success but got his life sorted in the best way possible when he met his wife, Sonia Ramchandani, through their shared passion for dance. The vibrant and energetic couple knows the value of physical activity and fitness, hence still continue to dance and help with setting up of dance events in Dubai. Their daughter is also following in their footsteps as she started showing interest in gymnastics from a very tender age. Being the apple of their eyes, they both love spending time with her and put in their best efforts to instill the best of both their traits in her. All their spare time is spent with their daughter, or being involved in some or the other fitness activities.





Tarun, having lived many lives in one life, feels that his magic mantra to success is his ability to be the best at anything he does, be it work or hobby. “I like to be the best and keep improving. That is what keeps me going. Even today, I am pursuing CFA and continuing to learn more,” he reveals. Along with being a learner by nature, he also expresses his desire to teach. Presently he coaches his staff on excelling in their workplace but he plans on taking up teaching in the future.

His wife shares this interest of him as she uses this medium to help the society. A fashion designer by qualification, she

discovered her love for teaching when she volunteered at her daughter’s school and found that many children are not able to study as per their wishes simply because their parents cannot afford it. She wishes to follow this to another level and contribute to the society.

Having been so close to his family at one stage, he admits missing his parents while living in Dubai. He also misses the freedom that a small town offers, along with the warmth and affection of people. His wife, on the other hand, misses the culture and the food from the princely state.







# Empowerment *at the* workplaces

PRAVEEN MEHTA, GM, TrueMax



*“Even when I have to hire someone, I step inside that role, get familiarized with the responsibilities and duties, and only with that mindset do I hire,”*

Praveen Mehta, an IT genius born in Udaipur, spent his entire childhood in the same city and completed his graduation as well before moving to Jaipur for his post-graduation.

Praveen, the man to come up with the first ever software for the share market in India back in 1993-94 did not stop there. He moved to Gurgaon in 2000 and developed the ERP software for the entire Indian market.

Owing to his achievements, he was asked to do the same for the entire Middle Eastern market. He shifted base to Dubai for a three-year project on ERP but ended up staying there itself.

He founded a manpower supply firm along with a friend in 2016, in Dubai. Just two years old at present, his company grew from strength to strength and now boasts of having around 2000 employees.

*“I never knew the meaning of a weekend.  
It is only after I moved to Dubai that I realized what a weekend is,”*



The techie has always been an all-rounder, being the only student in his school days to win the ‘Best Student’ award and the ‘Best Sportsperson’ award in the same academic year. He has also played till state level in Badminton, Squash and Football, all the while making sure his education doesn’t suffer. “I never knew the meaning of a weekend. It is only after I moved to Dubai that I realized what a weekend is,” he explains.

“In India, you are expected to be available for work or anything else on all 7 days. But here, people take the life at ease after the second half of a Thursday on account of the weekend. I got used to this idea after moving here and allowed me to maintain a healthy work-life balance. This was up until my firm started, and now I am back to being available whenever needed,” he points out.

Even though he is always available for all social and friend’s group, but prefer to spend every weekend with his wife and daughters for outings or just watching TV.

Praveen has lot of praises towards great visionary

rulers of the UAE. They have created lot of avenues for the expatriates. Besides, “65% of the people here are Asians, mostly are Indians, who are big contributors to the UAE society.”

Despite having a lot of opportunities to move westwards, he chose to stay in Dubai because of “a good cultural mix here” and Dubai being a “mini India.”

Being highly successful at a young age, he describes his magic mantra as never being a boss. “Even when I have to hire someone, I step inside that role, get familiarized with the responsibilities and duties, and only with that mindset do I hire,” he elaborates.

He has an image of himself where he never shies away from any work, as he believes work is your ‘karma’, he is always ready to help anyone, and will gladly assist all in any kind of work.

He also defines himself as a perpetual learner. He says, “The day I start thinking of myself as a teacher that is the day I forget my growth.”





His only message to the people of his homeland and home state is for them to stick together and work together. Rajasthan is a place where people have always fought for what they wanted, and they should keep up the spirit in same manner.

His wife, Heena has a similar message where she urges people to never forget the roots and to stay connected with their values. “We celebrate every small thing even being here. People back home should continue being the vibrant and colorful people that they are,” Heena shares.

Heena’s father Harsh Chhajer is well known Artist of Udaipur. He has done some mesmerizing creations. Praveen daughters Aarushi and Tanushri are also keen sports enthusiastic besides being good in education.

What do they miss from Rajasthan? The couple had identical responses once again, as the culture of the state, the places of childhood like Fateh Sagar Lake and other picnic spots were mentioned.

Praveen mentioned missing the games he used to play in his childhood friends - every aspect of those days

are memorable like badminton, TT, cricket, even just running around.. laughingly he says, though even if I want I can’t do that way.



*“The day I start thinking of myself as a teacher that is the day I forget my growth.”*





# Driving *distances* with simplicity.

RAKESH BOHARA, Managing Director- Bohara Group

*“To get more, share what you have, either is knowledge or ideas”*



When we talk about grit, passion and perseverance, the life of Rakesh Bohara will definitely be exemplary. He is an epitome of sheer passion in perseverance, indomitable spirit and never say no attitude.

He has his roots in Rajasthan but the city which is engraved in his heart is Chennai. He was born and brought up there and it's the epicenter of the best memories he has.

As a boy Rakesh indulged in all kind of mischiefs, from throwing chalks to irritating the teachers, making him the naughtiest boy in school. But his teachers identified the studious boy in him and hence he got away with his mischievous acts.

Born in a family of two more brothers and two sisters, he had to witness the struggles his father and elder brothers had to go through to help him study.

## *“Challenges are part of everyday life”*



Amidst unstable financial conditions, constant fights to keep the family business running and the elders giving up their academic dreams, Rakesh felt the urge to do something for his family and right after school, joined an evening college.

In mornings he used to work at cousin's office, afternoon he would attend college and in evenings provide tuition. Between all this he was also preparing for his CA and doing an internship. As they say “Hard work reaps success” and soon one of his acquaintances from Mumbai offered him a job.

Mumbai, the city of dreams, did not disappoint this passionate and hardworking soul. His previous experience in an accountancy firm got him noticed by the new boss within a matter of time. He was loved and appreciated by the clients and his network of contacts increased. One such client Mr. Jawahar M. Shah offered him a life changing opportunity in stock markets. Rakesh worked his Midas touch here too and his hard work paid off well. He was steadily walking on the path of becoming financially sound.

However, in his instinct he felt that he was not getting the desired outcome and was yearning for more. Just then, another opportunity popped up, to deal with used watches in Dubai. The risk-taker in him grabbed this offer and he left everything behind to sail for the

unknown in 1997. Being the brave-heart he is, he attracted more challenges than usual unlike other people who are content with life. Some mishaps were ready to obstruct his path of success but his main investor and partner, Mr. Lalaram was not ready to accept any more challenges and that became the turning point of his life. These trying times acted as a catalyst to bring out Rakesh's unmatched dedication, winning sentiment and unwavering discipline. As they say “The one who endures through the fire, shall come out as pure gold”

Amongst deceit, failures and loss of hope when Rakesh could have swayed with the tide of testing times, he decided against it. He firmed his mind to turn the testing times to winning times and he thought of channelizing his family business of making stainless steel household products into Dubai, his land of opportunities.

He spent his days conducting market research, networking, identifying potential buyers to make sure that the products do well. When he imported his first shipment, he received immediate appreciation and positive response due to high quality of stainless steel being the USP of his products compared to the quality standards of other sellers. The advantage of this situation was taken and there emerged another success

story, a new feather in his cap. While the process of extending the visa every 3 months continued, simultaneously there was a gradual rise of another silent revolution. An inspiring stainless steel household products business weaved its story in the city.







*“family time is always your personal time. Cherish it”*

Rakesh takes immense pride in his roots and being an Indian. His business name is also Indian as oppose to the suggestions given to him.

He and his family live in Dubai but the heart of their home and their personalities are deeply rooted with their culture and traditions. His soul mate and wonderful life partner Rachna is truly his best half. In the hustle bustle of their lives, she stresses on having dinner together, teaching the Sanskrit shlokas to their children, meting out the deserved respect to everyone and supporting her husband in every decision. Rakesh & Rachna are blessed with a daughter Namisha and a son Sagar.

He has not limited himself to being only a successful businessman. He is an adventurous soul and has an avid passion for biking and off-roading. He pursues his passion dedicatedly and preaches that everyone should.

His zest for life, family, travel and learning new things keeps him recharged and motivated to go out there and WIN. He

believes knowledge is best received when shared. He shares his wisdom and is motivating and helping several others to grow and succeed. He does whatever he can in his capacity for budding and young entrepre-neurs because he knows how much even some HELP can mean in trying/tough times. He continues to push himself out of his comfort zone and enjoys the little joys of life.

Today he is successful, happy and living more than comfortably but he values the lessons life has taught him and cherishes the journey he had. Because if not for this journey, the destination wouldn't be this worthy. He has taken everything life had to offer him with a pinch of salt (believing that salt will only add taste to his life).

His personality of always wanting to be better and on the go will continue to keep him afloat on the path of success and reaching avenues even he hasn't imagined yet.

*His undying passion (Junoon) and spirit (Jazbaa) is truly the essence (zaayka ) of his success story.*







# Enjoy *serving* all the way

RAVINDRA AGARWAL, GM - Finance, SharafTrading LLC

*“There are many people who come here after leaving their family in search of their dreams”*



Belonging to a community and being a part of a community are two different things. Although highly common, it is not a requirement to belong to a community to be a part of it. This unlikely and rare definition is personified by Ravindra Agarwal. His native place is Bhiwani and he is closely associated with the Marwadi and Rajasthani Community in Dubai.



*“After coming to Dubai, I felt something was missing from social life. I love helping people, any possible way I can, I could reach out and support the people in need be it family, legal assistance, financial or even a moral support,”*



“After coming to Dubai, I felt something was missing from social life. I love helping people, any possible way I can, I could reach out and support the people in need be it family, legal assistance, financial or even a moral support,” he expresses his gratitude.

“There are many people who come here after leaving their family in search of their dreams”. In reality there are many dream shattered because of many reasons, that time they need a shoulder to cry on. I try what I can.

Born and brought up in Kolkata, he pursued Chartered Accountancy after completing his graduation simply because all his friends were pursuing it and he didn’t want to be left out. His

career started in the audit department of Ernst & Young when he realized he wanted to be a part of the industry and not spend his life in the audit department. After spending 3 years, he joined Jharkhand Ispat, Ramgarh when an opportunity from Dubai came knocking when he interviewed for Apparel Group in 2008.

Talking about his journey from the interview to being the General Manager, Finance with Sharaf Group, he mentions the struggle of his initial days. “I shared a room with another person and we even our bathroom usage had timing restrictions. It was the struggle of those days and my hard work that resulted in my progress,” he shares. He owes all his knowledge of running a successful business to Dubai. He defines

Dubai as the place where he learned everything he knows. He had formed Marwari Yuva Manch International in Dubai under the patronage of Marwari Yuva Manch, India in 2016, as of today 125 families are associated with it.

Defining himself as a leader, he mentions the relations he has with his subordinates. “I can lead well as I know what needs to be done and how it needs to be done. I create more leaders, hence my relations with my subordinates are amazing. Not just professionally, but I know most of them at a very personal level,” he mentions. He also shares the value of learning as he is a learner himself.

He describes that the blessings and best wishes of his parents always gives him strength.



*“Everyone struggles. As long as you are working hard and with dedication, success is bound to follow. There may be a delay in the house of God, but there is no denial,”*

Had he not been a Chartered Accountant, his habit of helping people and trying to solve their problems would have made him a politician in Kolkata. “A lot of my friends have their businesses in Kolkata and they always came to me to help solve their problems with various unions. So being a political leader was very much possible had I not come to Dubai,” he says laughingly.

His passion for helping the society is supported by his wife, Seema Agarwal, who is highly proud of her husband’s quality. Although she misses her family and relatives from India, she compensates by connecting with people in Dubai and making friends. A dancer and a singer by passion, she also enjoys cooking “ I prefer to try

new things always as healthy lifestyle brings healthy mind. Wishing the best for her children, she urges them and other children to focus on their dream. According to her, if there is a focus, there is passion that passion results in hard work, which is followed by success.

On similar lines is the message by her husband who takes a leaf out of his own life. “Everyone struggles. As long as you are working hard and with dedication, success is bound to follow. There may be a delay in the house of God, but there is no denial,” he parts with these pearls of wisdom.









# Be a believer *to be* an achiever

SUDHIR AGRAWAL, Financial Consultant

*“All that I have achieved is because of the almighty.”*



When you start believing in God with everything you have, He becomes an integral part of your life. Such is the story of Sudhir Aggarwal of Jodhpur. Born in a family of people serving in the government since the British raj, his great grandfather was chief justice, father was a tax practitioner and his eldest brother is Chartered Accountant, other one

runs a software company in USA. Sudhir completed his education in engineering from Jodhpur before moving to Mumbai in 1995 to start his career with a finance company as a consultant. He also ventured into land development and stayed in Mumbai till 2016 before moving to the UAE as a financial consultant.

*When you are devoted to any thing, you place their needs above your own.*



Talking about his journey, he recollects his struggling initial days in Mumbai when he had started from scratch. “It was tough initially, and I used to visit Shirdi once or twice every month. I believe that brought a lot of opportunities my way and paved the path for me to reach Dubai and live the comfortable life I have today. I owe it all to Baba,” he expresses his gratitude. It was during those days when his struggle was converting into opportunities that he started dreaming of doing something in return for Sai Baba. He started building a temple for Sai Baba in 2010 which was completed in 2012. The temple known as Sai Dham, housing Navgraha and Kul Devi, is open to devotees in Jodhpur. The temple also has a Dharamshala and a Bhojanshala for the convenience of visiting devotees. “It was only with Baba’s blessings that the construction work was completed in a record of 16 months. We even added personal living space next to the temple afterward,” he gleams.

As he believes in the miracle of devotion and prayer, he also believes in hard work, and hence acknowledges the contribution of the Indian Community in the UAE. “The Indians are majority expats here and have contributed to every field in the UAE. This is the reason the government here is supportive of Indians,” he says. He specifically points out the religious tolerance in Dubai and the energy with which Indian festivals like Ganpati and Diwali are celebrated here.

Always believing and keeping faith in God, he also mentions it to be his magic mantra. He says, “All that I have achieved is because of the almighty.” This does not mean that he does not value learning as he defines himself as a learner who will continue to learn until he lives. He believes one can learn from anybody in their life, irrespective of social or financial status.





*“It was only with Baba’s blessings that the construction work was completed in a record of 16 months. We even added personal living space next to the temple afterward,”*

His wife, Anju Aggarwal, is also a believer in continuous learning and promotes healthy reading habits. She, like her husband, is a very religious person and believes in the power of Sai Baba. She has been a part of her husband’s trips to Shirdi ever since their wedding. This is the reason he prefers spending all his free time with his family and likes to visit temples whenever they visit India.

They have been giving back to society in many ways, like with Dainik Bhaskar they arrange a day out session for Senior Citizen to make them realize the happiness of life.

The Aggarwal couple is not lost for words when they talk about their hometown and home state as they both do not miss mentioning how much they miss the

culture and hospitality of Rajasthan while being in Dubai.

Like his wife, he too urges people to keep learning throughout their lives as learning and growing are things that should never stop also to believe in God as it is only with faith that they can pass the bad times comfortably, and enjoy the good times fully.







# Barefoot *school days to* Business Owner

S.B. JAIN, Managing Director, Sure Group of Companies

*“Work, work, and work. There is no alternative, there are no shortcuts,”*



A journey that started in Lunawa, a small village in Rajasthan, and reached its peak in Dubai, Sukan Jain's life surely is nothing short of a Bollywood movie. A

successful businessman in Dubai today who had a very humble life as a child in Lunawa when he used to walk barefoot with a slate and chalk in his hand to school.



In his early days, he realized that he had the talent and will to work hard, but he needed to move out to make it big. This saw Sukan moving to Mumbai after 6th standard to complete his schooling and then to Pune for engineering. His next stop was Chicago, where he got his master's degree and worked for a couple of years before his homeland called him back. After spending nine years in Ahmedabad, he got transferred to Dubai, where he worked enough to establish his air conditioning and packaging firm.

He is now joined by his son and daughter-in-law, which has allowed him to take a back seat in the business world, but being a typical Marwari, relinquishing business completely is unknown to him. "Being a businessman, money was always important

to me, but now my attitude towards life has changed a little. My focus now is to give back to society, in education, healthcare or even religious activities. But despite that, the importance of money will never be lost to me," he mentions about his current life.

Calling the UAE his workplace and India his birthplace, he is determined to pay his dues back to the society, both in the UAE and India. He feels especially proud of his son, Jinesh, and daughter-in-law, Nirja, who are not only running his business but are also running a charitable organization in India called Seed Foundation that supports underprivileged children pursue higher studies. "Getting her as my daughter-in-law was the best decision I made. She is not afraid to get her hands

dirty and compliments Jinesh perfectly," he beams with pride.

Being in the UAE for 40+ years, he has seen it develop in front of his own eyes. "When we moved here, it was a small town. I miss my old Dubai," he reminisces. According to him, Indian expats have played a major role in the development of the UAE, be it labor, engineering, or maintenance. This is the reason that today, people like Sukan can mingle with the locals, without any difference. "We make sure we follow the law of the land, but at the same time, we make sure we are treated as equals. You can live like lords here if you follow the law of the land," he describes how the UAE government has supported the Indians living there.







*“Family values and religion are the most important things in life. Our ancestors have taught us to respect the family values and religion, irrespective of the place you end up in life.”*



He thanks his stars to have experienced life in almost every part of the globe, before choosing Dubai as his home. Sukan loves to spend his free time at the golf course and listening to old songs.

His love for traveling makes sure he stays connected with his friends and relatives across the world. “Family values and religion are the two most important things in my life. Our ancestors have taught us to respect family values and religion, irrespective of the place we are in.” He mentions with pride that his father took Diksha and devoted his life

to Jainism and built a temple, thereby giving great values and fame to the family.

Sukan and his wife, Renu, feel proud to have passed on the same values to their children, and he credits his wife for most of it. “My wife is the guiding light when it comes to religion and family values. She fasts during navratras and maintains the importance of our roots.”

Renu also expresses her gratitude to the Jain family for teaching her everything she knows about their family values. She mentions how she was never made

to feel like an outsider, coming from Gujarat in a Rajasthani family.

His magic mantra for life is hard work, be it education, career, or spiritual life. “Work, work, and work. There is no alternative, there are no shortcuts,” is what he has to say as a message to the young generation, especially in Rajasthan. Talent is a key requirement, but hard work is needed to make that talent work, according to Sukan. He also encourages people to leave their hometown and move out of their comfort zone to seize better opportunities to make it big.



***Muni Shri Saubhagyachandra Sagar Marasaheb***



# Multifaceted life experience

VIJAY DUTT VYAS, Chairman Vyas Group / Owner of RAJPUTS Team

*“I was one of the first few Indians who became the resident of China after the 1962 war,”*



“People who reach great heights of success are always true to themselves,” says Vijay, hinting at the fact that human beings are wired to grow if they take individual responsibility first before expounding on societal virtues. And Vijay’s success story is a testimony to his belief. Vijay Dutt Vyas, now a stalwart businessman based in

Dubai, hails from the background of unrivaled lineage. “My father was a commissioner of the municipal corporation of multiple cities in Rajasthan, and my grandfather was the longest-serving advocate in the Jodhpur high court,” says Vijay, unable to conceal his pride.



*“People who reach great heights of success are always true to themselves,”*



Born in the family of bureaucrats from Jodhpur, Vijay was meant for greatness, not to say remarkable things in life. He gives a brief insight into his journey that steadily transitioned from a freshman to a seasoned businessman.

His very first job took him to Nepal and then to China, something that wasn't heard of in those times of acrimonious relationship after the turbulent war of 1962 between China and India. "I was one of the first few Indians who became the resident of China after the 1962 war," he says.

Doing things in a special albeit unusual way became a

norm for Vijay — after his five-year stint in China, he went for his job to North Korea, something that is still unheard of. "I have never met anyone in my life who has stayed in North Korea, that too for a whole year," he says.

His experience in China resulted in an illustrious albeit unusual juncture of his life. Owing to his extensive, and firsthand knowledge of China, Vijay was asked to assist Rajiv Gandhi, then prime minister of India, to provide him with better insights than diplomats into the country.

"That's how I inadvertently became a part of the team that delivered one of the first Indo-China bilateral trade agreements; I am still utterly proud of that moment," Vijay dwells on this once-in-a-lifetime escapade.

Apart from his expeditions in various countries, he became the youngest president of the largest Indian conglomerates. With all the experience garnered over the years, it became easy for Vijay to start his own business, which discernibly turned out to be a huge success.





*“I don’t miss anything from Rajasthan because of everything of mine is Rajasthan”*



However, to say that Vijay is a one-man army would be somewhat fallible. Wherever he went, whatever heights he achieved, his wife, Kajal Vyas stood beside him like a dependable, unrelent-ing pillar. “I am just with him, wherever he goes,” says Kajal who hails from Jodhpur. Who thanks god for all she has got from life. Gives credit to her father and then to Vijay as a role model.

Later, when their children come into the picture, the solid unit of two transformed into a unit of four. Today, his daughter Vijayta, a chartered accountant who is also a writer and blogger and his son, Vishal, who post-graduated in International Business from London, are helping him make great strides in business, looks after RAJPUT team in T10 League, UAE

Vishal emphasis on “Vitamin V” laughingly which he gets as an energy and knowledge boost every day from his father. Mentions his parents as his friend. Wants to make movie on his father, if given a chance. Praises lot about his sister

Most people who know Vijay as an expert businessman do not know of his inclination towards music. When asked about this, he expressed his proclivity towards the activities outside of regular routine and monotonous academia. He also talks about his sheer aversion to the Indian parents’ tendency to show more interest in academic studies rather than honing any unique trait that their children might have including art, music, and sports. For his reason alone, he went on to buy a cricket team in the T10 league approved by the Emirates Cricket Board.

Currently Vijay has invested in a great venture to take care of Environment for waste management, where people can get rid of their green (food) waste into a water and fertilizer from 2kg to 1000kg.

Vijay has seen the world, yet according to him the valor and grit of Rajasthan is unmatched. “I don’t miss anything from Rajasthan because of everything of mine is Rajasthan whatever I miss, I procure it here,” says Vijay.







# **Serious** *talks with* a big smile

AKHIL JAIN, Ex-Banker, Advisor, Investor/Entrepreneur

*“A true leader is someone who is a visionary but more importantly a guiding force who passionately brings people together to effect change”*



Akhil Jain is one of the most successful Indian finance professionals and entrepreneurs based in UAE, who has a truly inspirational way of leadership. We can always trust a true blue Mumbaikar to have a unique outlook towards life. He believes that the culture and values he picked from his hometown in Rajasthan have travelled with him ever since his childhood. While his professional endeavors embody his personality, it is truly his balance of personal life that makes him even more successful. He is as doting as a father, as he is as a husband.

*“I have always been thankful for everything that I have achieved. My first prayers in the morning are acknowledging those milestones and appreciating everyone who has touched my life.”*



Hear him talk about his children and you would see an immediate gleam of pride in his eyes. His son, Raunak, is an ivy league MBA from Columbia University in New York and a global investments executive. His daughter-in-law, Dr. Bhavna is a successful implantologist and a New York University fellow in esthetic dentistry.

A relation between a daughter and a father is unmatched. You can see this when he speaks of his daughter, Riddhika, a commerce graduate from University of Nottingham and a certified gemologist from Gemological Institute of America. This has helped her expand her husband, Dhruv's

flourishing family-run jewelry business in Dubai. One common theme that is hard to miss is Akhil's constant encouragement for educational endeavors, especially for his children.

When it comes to his own education, he is a proud Sydenhamite. He is also one of the most distinguished people from his batch alongside prominent names like Uday Kotak, N. Venkatraman, Asit Mehta, and Rahul Gupta to name a few. Education was deemed as extremely important by his father (an eminent BARC scientist serving the Indian Government) and that is perhaps why he succeeded in becoming a Chartered Accountant.

Akhil started off his professional career as a management consultant at Pricewaterhouse Coopers. From there his journey only progressed onward and upward as he climbed the corporate ladder in global banking institutions such as French Bank, Societe Generale and Standard Chartered in Dubai where he spent almost three decades in several senior leadership roles.

After taking the plunge with his friend, Rizwan Sajan (Danube Group) as the Group CFO, today Akhil continues his entrepreneurial ventures in the capacity of an advisor, board member and investor for many prominent corporates in the Middle East.







His wife, Shruti Jain, daughter of a renowned architect from Jaipur, is the youngest among four sisters. With her love for children and passion for teaching, she thrived as an educationalist for over twenty years.

She has now also expanded her expertise into philanthropy where she spearheads imparting life skills to blue-collar workers. Despite the couple's combined achievements, they have both remained true to their selves, and followed a simple, humble and spiritual life.

When you speak to Shruti, you realize that their relationship has shaped Akhil in more ways than one.

Undoubtedly, one of the most beautiful things about his success is the way he attributes his wife for it all. Ultimately, his story has the perfect balance of everything – an inspirational career, a

*“Gratitude” gives me the ultimate strength to start a new daily challenge even today knowing that I have all that support and goodwill behind me.”*

supportive family and most importantly, a genuine soul!

“My experiences and memories have been my strongest assets and I wouldn't want to replace them. Keep moving forward and hold no grudges. That's the principle I have sworn by throughout my life.”

Having spent majority of his life in Dubai and travelled globally extensively, Rajasthan holds a special coveted place in his heart. He respects the rare-to-find simplicity and authenticity of life that exists back home, and yearns to move around ordinary folk, turn back the pages of time, relearn history and then contribute towards society building through impact investing and knowledge sharing.

Truly, Akhil – we are extremely grateful to have interviewed a man full of energy who has inspired people at every end with a big smile.







# Giving

helping hand to society

DILIP JAIN, Toastmaster Speaker & Banker



An active student since his childhood, Mr. Dilip Jain never let his relocations from Renwal to Assam to Mumbai come in the way of his active event participation. After finishing his Chartered Accountancy in Mumbai, he started his career with Kotak Bank in

1999, before moving to ICICI Bank a year later, which brought him to Dubai in 2005. Barring three years in Bahrain, from 2011 till 2014, he has remained in Dubai ever since with his wife, Neha Jain, and their two children





*“I have been doing a program called Youth Leadership Program that focuses on youth empowerment and building their skill sets,”*

His journey in the UAE has been a philanthropic one as the story of his philanthropy began when he joined Daiwa Capital in Dubai after leaving ICICI Bank. “I have been doing a program called Youth Leadership Program that focuses on youth empowerment and building their skill sets,” he explains his determination of providing a platform to the talented to hone their skills.

Even when he was in Bahrain, his efforts never ceased as he started a club for children for public speaking skills. For children interested in scientific experiments and exhibitions, he organized exhibitions in Bahrain Science centre for those who could not have access to

such events. Even his wife is an integral part of his journey as she herself handles Ignited Minds, an initiative helping children develop their skills in taking Olympiads and other competitive exams, focusing on Mathematics.

Talking about the standing of the Indian community in the UAE, he is quick to note how: “...both the UAE and India have the same ideology.

The UAE is a place where Indians have made a mark in not just the cultural side, but also in the growth and development of the country.”The UAE has provided an

environment for Indians to grow along with the country’s growth, according to him.

“Always do something that you love doing and make sure that whatever you do provides joy to someone else,” are the golden words that serve as his magic mantra. He believes in the joy of giving and follows the same in his everyday life.

A forever learner, he derives learnings from everyone he meets in the walks of life. “Even a teacher is a learner as the teaching stops when the learning stops. Additionally, learning is not governed by age,” he shares his views.







*Apart from meditation and religion, I love getting involved in social activities that focus on skill development and value addition,”*

Apart from being a learner, he knows the stark difference between a boss and a leader, which he is not shy to share. “A boss tells you or directs you on what to do while a leader shows you the path to become a leader yourself,” he reveals.

To maintain a work-life balance, he tries his best to spend as much time as possible with his children as he believes “the gift of time is the best gift to give.” Talking about his free time, he likes to meditate and get involved in religious activities. “I love getting involved in social and Indian Consulate activities that

focus on skill development and value addition,” he mentions

Neha shares his preference for religion as her hobby is to learn about various religions by reading books on various religions. She also spends time with her children, often helping her younger child in studies. Her involvement with Ignited Minds is also something that occupies her time, resulting in her shift from just a housewife to developing youth in math skills.

Dilip’s message to the people and community, he

quotes Buddha “every person has some light within. We all have our own commitments and personal needs. At the end of the day, the person who contributes to society and does something beyond himself will be remembered in this world.”

Talking about Rajasthan, he shares what he misses the most, and unsurprisingly his answer is the culture, beauty of the dresses, and warmth of the people.

Neha adds her friends and meeting them easily to the list of things being missed in the UAE.





# Patriotic *social* thinker

PADAM PATNI, Garvika International Trading

*“People approach me to help their children get jobs in Dubai,  
sometimes even for matchmaking,”*



As it is said, diamonds are found in the rough, same is the case of Padma Patni. He comes from a very humble background, growing up in Ranoli village of Sikar district. He was an exceptional student since the beginning and shone brightly throughout his school days, and consequently was courted by four of the top engineering colleges of the country, before choosing to stay in Jaipur. His talent bore fruits and he landed his first

job with Hindustan Motors as a production engineer. After two short years, he shifted base to Ranchi, where he was employed in a steel plant. He spent over two decades in his ancestral state of Bihar before finally finding roots in Vapi and establishing his factory in Silvassa, in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district of Gujarat. He moved to Dubai in 2004, with the aim of uniting Indians living in the UAE, for collective progress.



*“We need to stay united as Indians because when we stay united, the growth is collective. That is what I wish for,”*



Defining himself in a nutshell, he says “I am a very politically motivated person. Shri Narendra Modi Ji is like my idol. The sole aim of my life is to help people, to help the needy.” He is very well connected to, and very highly respected, among almost all regional communities of Indians in the UAE and is also the president of Digambar Jain Society, which he founded with just 5 families. Most of his social work is directed at helping children pursue higher education and progress, just like his own two children have progressed in their lives.

He is a true patriot and feels progress of the country lies in the progress of its youth. Living in Dubai, all his work is targeted at causes in India with the same motive.

Owner of a trading firm in Dubai, Padam has not failed to make strong connections with the Indian consulate either. “People approach me to help their children get jobs in Dubai, sometimes even for matchmaking,” he beams with pride.

When talking about the contributions of Indians in the growth of the UAE, he thanks the Indian community for laying the foundation stone. “They were the first ones to come here and open doors for other many,” he expresses his appreciation.

He also mentions about the gratitude toward UAE government and its people for recognizing Indians and their precious roles which has been played in the progress. “We need to stay united as Indians because when we stay united, the growth is a collective growth. That is what I wish for,” he explains. He further adds, “My mantra for life is the same. Unity and progress for all. The world needs peace, and unity is a sure way of achieving that. Add non-violence and being honest in any kind of action, the world will be a better place.” He has always worked for the betterment of others and wants to continue doing the same. His family has fought with him for his time sometimes, but his strong will-power has always made sure he works for the society first.



*“Rajasthan is a state of warriors, people who served their land before serving their family. My message is the same. Serve your country, your state, before you think of anyone else.”*



A leader and learner by nature, even his spare time is all dedicated towards various social causes. “Learning is an ever going process, irrespective of age, gender, or even species. Continuing to learn makes me remain grounded and humble,” he adds. His wife, Vyjayantimala Patni, supports him in his social causes as well, but unlike her husband, she prefers cooking and trying new recipes in her free time. Padam’s daughter works in Bank and son Piyush works in Logistics co. married to Priya and has two lovely daughter- Garvika and Avika

Padam has just one wish, one change if he could make to his life. He would like to enter politics in India and serve the people being among them. He wishes to work for India, “My Bharat” as he fondly calls his homeland, and he feels politics is the best way to do that. Idolizing the Indian prime minister, he wishes to follow his footsteps.

The message that he has to share is again based on the way he has led his life. “Rajasthan is a state of warriors, people who served their land before

serving their family. My message is the same. Serve your country, your state, before you think of anyone else. Be strong in your motives and fight for the collective good,” he shares.

As a true national, he says he does not want to mention any particular part of Rajasthan or other states where has lived, but the entire country. “Everywhere I have gone, worked, studied, I have left a part of myself there, and I miss that,” he says with nostalgia.









# Ideologies never fade

RAM TOLANI, Group Chairman- Goodwill World

*"Revolutions are not made by men in spectacles."*



The story of Mr. Ram Tolani is a trail of revolutionizing deeds done by a man in spectacles. Ram's unconventional story begins right in his childhood when he decided to carry his maternal grandmother's surname instead of his paternal family name due to his closeness with her.

At an early age of 22, he had moved to Dubai after completing his engineering. Though being an inheritor of ancestral richness, he tried his hands in different traits. But an unsatisfied desire to be a doctor had kept him restrained from professional stability.



*Please encourage children to focus on higher education  
And  
Parents must invest in their children education .  
Sanjay Tolani is one of the living example .*

He knew that after being an engineer, it may be not feasible for him change his path. But the universe had already heard his plea and he soon discovered the blooming industry of insurance. As a doctor or as an insurance agent, the motive was finally fulfilled - to secure the lives of people.

Having worked in this industry for years, he believes that the insurance sector isn't a business but a noble cause.

He feels a sense of satisfaction when a claimant or a nominee gets the sum insured. It is, in-fact, their unspoken blessings that have kept him motivated in his life. Not just Ram, but his son Sanjay too opted to be in the same business, though being given the opportunity to choose a career he liked.



After years of success, Ram and Sanjay believe that their enthusiasm in life is driven by the ladies in the house.

After getting married to Seema, Ram has always encouraged her to be an active participant in his life and they have passed on the same to Sanjay and his wife Chandani. Now the third generation, his grandchildren, are also been given similar values.

Ram has a true believer of women empowerment, his emphasis on the greatness of the women in our life, it's the nature of human to foresee the sacrifice and dedication of each women and one should start from your surroundings first.

His story, however, hasn't been all easy. A few years



ago, Ram had a severe brain stroke, and he is grateful to his family for helping him through it.

On being asked whether the incident changed his outlook towards life, Ram replied that every human being dies twice, once biologically and other when his name gets faded.

While Ram wanted to live to see his grandchildren grow and take his name forward, he knew he didn't have much to lose either way.







Ram has one of the largest and rarest collection of Coins and Currencies he is planning to start a museum of it for the public. He also has a keen interest in Art and Paintings.

Coming to their roots, Ram and Sanjay have decided to develop their home in Jaipur as a multi-storey senior-age home. Ram believes old age is a phase, but seniority is an experience of past deeds. It is the his way to give back to the land of Rajasthan for making them a family of appreciable endeavors.

Ram is a preacher and a follower of his own ideology of continuous education. He addresses the new generation to pursue the unending process of learning to be successful in life. In his second inning of life, Ram wishes to continue his hard work, and at the same time balance his family life with it.

Alike all his theories of life, he strongly believes in being a polite boss to his subordinates, but acts like a leader when at home. “Nothing is more sad than the death of an illusion”, and Ram’s life is a shape given to illusions, shapes never die.







# An author of financial coaching

DR SANJAY TOLANI, Financial Advisor, Coach & Author

*“You cannot be a leader without being a good follower just as you cannot be a good teacher without being a good student.”*



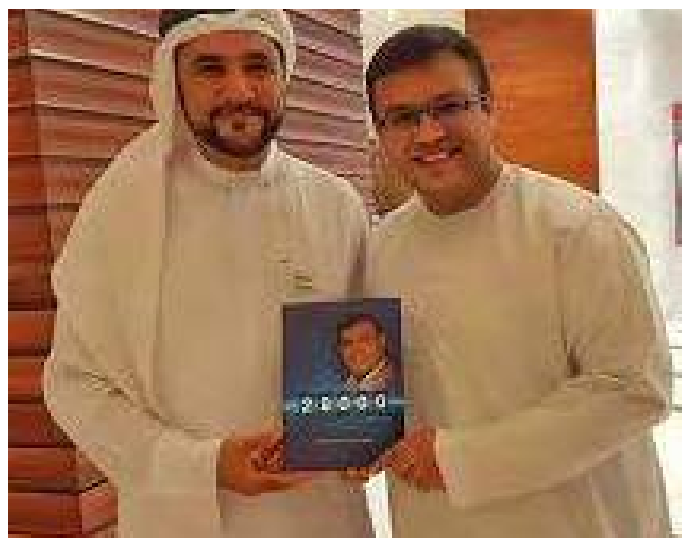
This affirmation by Sanjay Tolani closely resonates with his persona, which can be perfectly summed up in three words without fault — Erudite, sharp and inherently witty.

Born and brought up in Dubai with unmistakable Rajasthani roots, Sanjay Tolani has always been an

overachiever. He owns an impressive array of professional certifications which include two undergraduate, three post-graduate qualifications and a Ph.D.

Not only that, he is the author of multiple books including the International Best Selling book titled “28000 – Make Every Day Count”.





Seeing his long list of achievements, it doesn't surprise anyone that he went on to spearhead his family insurance business at the tender age of 17.

Although a family business, he did not get to enter it without proving his merit. His father, Ram Tolani, a stalwart in the insurance brokerage business, made sure that Sanjay had what it takes to be a successful business. It was easy for everyone to see that Sanjay has inherent business acumen. Sanjay is one of the best selling author in Far East. He is known as crowd puller with his magical advises

When asked about what he loved about his profession, he expressed, "What I love about insurance brokerage is the fact that it allows us to get better insights into multiple people all over the country."

Sanjay inherited family business when his father suffered a brain stroke. He and his family stood together amid the test of times and did not let this tragic event cripple their family business. Sanjay, with the backing of his family, revived the business and made it thrive tremendously. He has firm believer of "what you say-you must do"

Looking back at his life-journey so far, Sanjay says, "Every memory is unique whether it is good, bad or ugly, everything translated into who I am today; tougher memories gave me more insight." His outlook on life is worth emulating.

His discourses throw light on his superlative knowledge about finances and insurance market in general.

He talks about the importance of perception and how a salesperson sees things is directly proportional to the success trajectory.





Sanjay is also a huge votary of sports. He claims that he has even dabbled into adventure sports like skydiving, car racing and more.

He has found a perfect companion in his wife Chandni Tolani, who is from a very affluent family from Jakarta, Indonesia, though been there from many generations yet can be seen still with roots of India with accent. Chandni loves to teach, before meeting Sanjay she use to teach physically challenged kids. She shares same leisure pursuits as her husband including traveling.

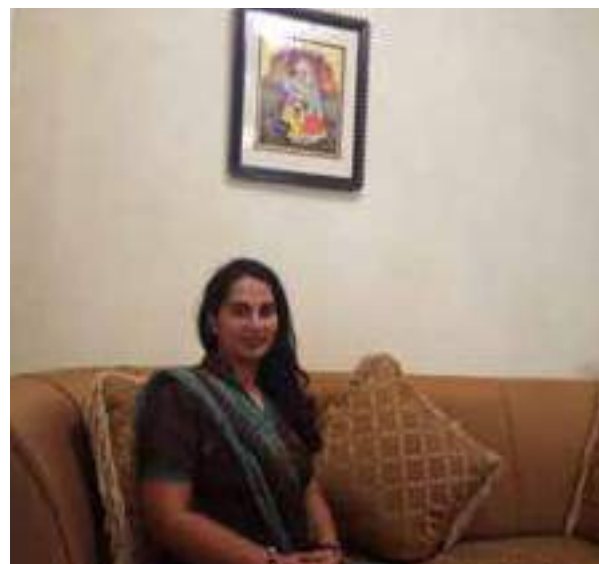
Both Sanjay and Chandni perfectly balance their personal life as well as their involvement in the family business. That said, with two kids at home, they both have



curbed their traveling to a large extent. “I try to discipline my children- Suraj & Chirag and imbibe mortality in their mind,” says Chandni. Passing on what she had learned from her mother.

A nostalgic glint enters Sanjay’s eyes when he talks about Jaipur. “We traveled to Jaipur exten-sively when I was a kid.” He further talks about how he spent his childhood days in the vibrant city of Jaipur trying to get his hand around making papads, an Indian snack.

However, while Jaipur is his ancestral home, in his own words — “Dubai is home to all of us.”





# Ideas wrapped *in an* envelope

PRAVEEN CHOUDHARY CEO & Founder - Al Saffron Travel & Tourism LLC, Confirmfly.com,  
Sun Transport LLC, X/A Accountant

*“Chase your dreams, always try for it, you never know when luck strike”*



A man of principle from police department in Rajasthan. To revolutionize the history of his family, planned to bring all the children from his joint family and settle in Jodhpur in the late 80's for better educational purpose including his own brother's and sister's children. It was a huge family that he was working for then. But he saw something

sparkling in his son Praveen Choudhary, who wasn't just bright in studies but was growing up as an influential personality.

After graduating in Accounts Honor's, where he also actively participated in the NCC Air-wing and headed to pursue his MBA from Sardar Patel University.





*“Healthy profit comes as a result of your determination and pure act of business”*

Praveen isn't a work celebrant now, rather from his first job as a share trader, he had kept his hands active on his research for betterment, and the same took him to read about the blooming Dubai Gold Exchange. To manage a license for the same, he headed to Dubai on a tourist visa, where he met his next professional companion and joined him as a Financial Analyst. His tourist visa was about to expire in a fortnight and he happened to meet an agent who could help him renew it.

During the course of negotiation, he enquired about his profit margin on each visa. The huge difference became a tough task for him to gasp. It was the evoking thought that couldn't let him join office next day and he knew travel business was his destination. With initial struggles of a few years he was successful in making an evident space in the tourism market.

The major attraction for UAE as his business

destination its being the tourism hub. Praveen, a man who grew his own world on a tourist visa, wonders if it was UAE's magnetic field that didn't let him leave the city or his unflinching desire to succeed.

In the journey, his wife Vimala didn't leave a single stone unturned to be the breeze beneath Praveen's feathers. While she was the daughter of a successful textile merchant of Tamil Nadu, her routes rested in Rajasthan.

Though being an acumen of knowledge, she decided to put her efforts in shaping Praveen's venture instead of taking up a high pay scale job. In the present day, Vimala heads project department and is an active participant in the transition of the company from a traditional base to a technological outlook. She also shows her gratitude towards in-laws, who helped her to take up the challenging path and journey in a smooth manner.



Praveen and Vimala both complement each other not in family but business matter also, they gradually run four business with an ease because of planning and dedication. It's the long term goal which helps them to take challenges and execute effectively yet they believe in the strength of simplicity. Praveen has a strong support for the talent exchange relationship between the UAE and India.

He believes you are not a learner unless you learn to stand in other's shoes, to understand his acts better.

Being a successful businessman in UAE, he spends around 15 days every year in the strong winds of his native, Rajasthan. Though he tries to carry that smell every year, but the wait to see his parents again, fades it. Success is evident in his tone, but there is a pinch of regret of creating his new world in a new land.

Nevertheless, Vimla and Praveen have set high standards for the next generation to come and they hope they rise and shine far better than what they did. Praveen has two kids- daughter Krishi and son Vihaan,

both are extremely talented and believe in family culture yet a sports enthusiastic. Vimala wishes that new Rajasthan should bring lot of recognition to the global arena, besides the food and culture.

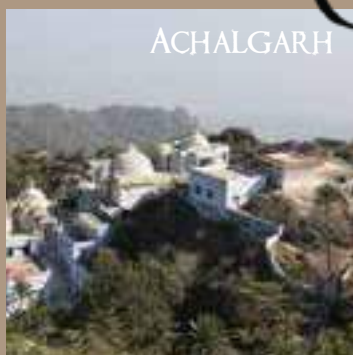
Both Praveen and Vimala are great food lover and host also. Love to blend in community and ready to help all.

“Profit is a result, of your determination and pure act of business”





# FORTS OF राजस्थान



ACHALGARH



BANGARH

JUST FEW OF THEM...



AMER



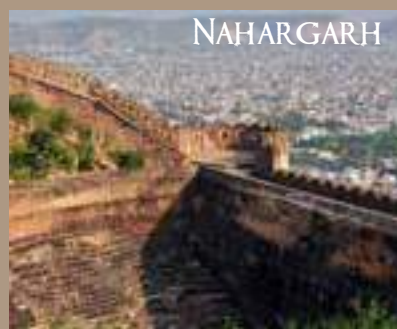
BALA



BHATNER



BUNDI



NAHARGARH



SIWANA



GAGRON



CHITTORGARH





JAISALMER



KHIMSAR



NEEMRANA



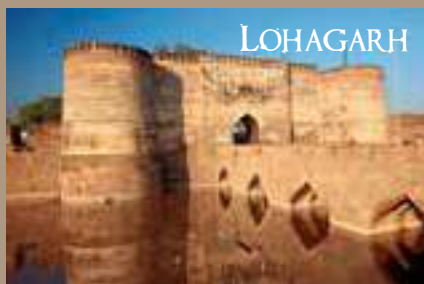
KUMBHALGARH



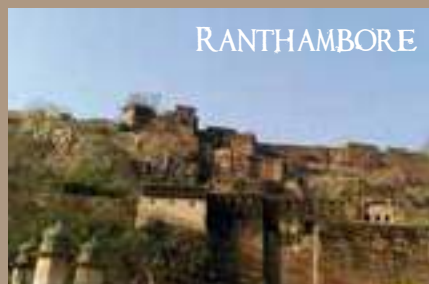
LAKE PALACE



MEHRANGARH



LOHAGARH



RANTHAMBORE



NAGOUR



JUNAGARH



KANKWARI



KUCHAMAN



TARAGARH



SHERGARH





# PRATAP MAHAL

IHCL SELECTIONS

Pratap Mahal is a luxury palace style Hotel located at the foot of the Aravalli Hills and surrounded by plush greenery. We are at the Pushkar Bypass between the historic cities, Ajmer and Pushkar. It boasts influence of both cities giving it the perfect balance of culture and heritage. We have 90 tastefully designed courtyards. Multiple swing structures (jhoolas) have been placed all around, including the rooms which are meticulously designed with Rajasthani accents. Regional dishes are prepared by authentic chefs in our multi-cuisine restaurant.



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