

AN ICONIC COLLECTION



2019 - 2020

PASSING THE LEGACY TO NEXT GEN ICONS



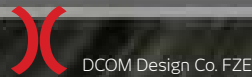




This First Edition of the “ICONS NEXT GEN”
Showcasing the Achievement and success stories of ICONS from all walk of life.

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CLASSIC QUOTES OF THE ICONS

“ BEST THING I EVER DID WAS- BELIEVE IN ME”

“ EVERY DAY IS A FRESH START ”

“ A LITTLE PROGRESS EACH DAY ADDS UP TO BIG RESULTS ”

“ SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE NEVER WORRY ABOUT WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING ”

“ WHILE YOU ARE WAITING SOMEBODY IS DOING IT ”

“ WORK UNTIL YOU NO LONGER HAVE TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF ”

“ YOU ARE CAPABLE OF AMAZING THINGS ”





ICON's forword

ICONS is an idea springing from the minds of the nation's top business industrialists, aspiring to effectively merge their individual strengths into a potent force and create an influential society to foster fellowship and togetherness. The Club plans to achieve this through an exclusive set of intellectual, recreational and entertaining events. Every member of this association is expected to be a luminary in the industry of their choice, as such this alliance is named 'ICONS' – a true representation of the identity of its members.

With the mission to bring together a diverse group of personalities on a single platform and to engage them in various activities, resulting in an influential networking of like minded ICONS.

We, at Icons envision to create a dynamic society with a strong platform and network for members, families and their next generation to advance their lifestyle. Our vision is to collaborate influential members from a diverse range of communities to mentor and network with our valued members.

Now to know more and see what and where the next generation is moving to, not to miss the ICON's First ladies. The idea to make this Coffee Table book is to be seen by the generations to come.





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TRADITION *of* TRUST & DREAMS

ANIL GEHANI Founder & Managing Director of Zabadani Real Estate

*Every day is a learning experience and I learn from my people,
my children and everyone I meet*



Successful entrepreneurship needs more than being born with the right mindset. Anil Gehani has not been one to be afraid to chase his dreams and has proven his mettle in the world of real estate which is certainly not for the faint hearted.



“I have always nurtured big dreams,”

Over the years, Gehani has stayed the course of real estate cycles in the industry to elevate his business into one of the most trusted names in the real estate business. Zabadani real estate has the distinction of being recognized three times by Forbes Middle East among the top ten real estate advisory agencies in the region.

“I have always nurtured big dreams,” says Gehani who holds a management degree from Bangalore University and has, from the beginning aspired to be a businessman.

In his initial years of setting up his company in 1990's here in the U.A.E, he faced a lot of challenges but his determination to be successful got him to where he is today.

“Yes, our journey has been very exciting,” adds his wife Soni Gehani who has been his strength throughout.

As a successful entrepreneur, Anil Gehani believes in being a constant learner.” Every day is a learning experience and I learn from my people, my children and everyone I meet,” says Gehani. He constantly motivates his team and inspires them to work towards excellence.

“The majority of the growth of the UAE can be attributed to the contribution by Indians,” he says. This, of course, is backed by the great support of the government of the UAE.”The business friendly environment and the excellent regulatory framework help enterprise thrive,” adds Gehani citing the example of the numerous rags- to-riches stories that have emerged from the country.



Gehani has instilled in his company, the culture of nurturing client relationships to successfully manage different scenarios.

The future for Zabadani Real Estate holds plans to diversify into new areas and markets such as India and the US.

Gehani is backed by the support of his daughter Hanishka in his foray into new ventures. She is keen to pursue different facets of Real Estate Investment, in which she recently earned her Masters degree in from Harvard. Her brother, Panaav shares this thirst for success and in fact,

hopes to elevate his father's dream to a higher level and a brighter vision.

As an avid football player, he likes challenges and admits, "I always like to compete with myself, "giving us a peek into the ambition and determination that the next generation has inherited by observing the amazing journey of their parents.

Anil and Soni Gehani love to socialize and are grateful to be a part of the ICONS group which they agree is "like a wonderful family that offers support to all members in all times."

"ICONS - like a wonderful family that offers support to all members in all times."







CREATING SUCCESS MILESTONES

ANIL SHAHRI Partner, Silver Sun General Trading LLC

*“I believe in the power of positive thinking and the glass being half full.
I feel this attitude towards life helps overcome any obstacles and difficulties.”*



While creating an excellent track record for his diverse business interests, Anil Shahri has simultaneously mastered the art of apportioning his time well between his family and a large group of friends and acquaintances.



“I like to take on the various challenges in life as facing them makes me very confident and self assured in life.”

He loves to quote Bill Gates – “A man must find a great balance between work and life to keep his sanity.”

Shahri completed a part of his education in the UAE and later joined the family business in textiles where his enthusiasm and dynamism have been a buoyant force to help achieve unprecedented growth. This continued in his forays into real estate where he created a distinguishable mark and also ventured into international business across a variety of sectors and markets. He says, “I believe in the power of positive thinking and the glass being half full. I feel this attitude towards life helps overcome any obstacles and difficulties.”

Not surprisingly, this optimism has been a great

influence on his family. His son Pranav Anil Shahri, while looking forward to his teenage years, already seems to have gained a positive perception about the world of business, looking ahead confidently to become the Youngest Entrepreneur.

He displays a great entrepreneurial mindset and comments with conviction, “I like to take on the various challenges in life as facing them makes me very confident and self assured in life.”

Pranav enjoys a game of tennis or going swimming in his spare time and believes that his keen interest in sports has certainly helped him become more strong mentally by facing obstacles fearlessly, learning to keep working towards achievements.



“I offer guidance whenever required but allow the older one the freedom to make decisions, nowadays,”



There is little doubt that his father is a powerful role model but Pranav is quick to give due credit to his mother's contribution.

Kiran Anil Shahri was born and raised in Singapore, boasts a Management degree in Banking and Finance and has worked as a private banker with Standard Chartered bank for five years.

She opines that her husband Anil has always set an excellent example of a great approach towards life and respect towards everyone.

She maintains a very open and friendly relationship with her children and admits to involving her children in many matters in order to give them a great sense of responsibility. “I offer guidance whenever required but allow the older one the freedom to make decisions, nowadays,” she adds.

Pranav Shahri seems to revel in this wonderful mix of mentoring and friendship by both parents. He says, “My parents have always been my guiding light and I look up to them as they have been my first teaching school.” He clearly adores his brother who is eight years younger and is proud to be the protective older brother.

Anil and Kiran Shahri rely on the power of praying together to strengthen family bonds. Their social calendar is always buzzing with activity due to the friendships cultivated over the years in the UAE. As Anil Shahri says, “I never feel lonely due to the presence of all my friends in the ICONS group.”

He is grateful for the recognition given by the UAE to the contribution of the Indian community. He feels that the relationship between India and the UAE has constantly strengthened over the years.



JOURNEY *towards* EXCELLENCE

ANIS SAJAN, Managing Director Danube Group & Mentor of Bengal Tigers

“Rejection and failure help you to emerge stronger,”



Anis Sajan recalls how he has always felt at home in the UAE and how he has been receiving a taste of its hospitality and acceptance right from the time he landed here. Growing up in the small town of Ghatkopar in Mumbai, Sajjan considers he is fortunate to have the partnership of his elder brother, Rizwan Sajjan and revives fond memories of the great camaraderie they have shared since childhood, along with their sister, Shabnam.

Having moved to the UAE to help his brother set up the Danube group, Sajjan has been on an exhilarating journey ever since.

However, the foundation of his career path was made strong through his experience in India as a salesman with Eureka Forbes. It was there, he says he learned resilience and the power of perseverance.

“Indians of every section of the society have contributed to the development of the UAE, in conjunction with the government of the country,”



“Rejection and failure help you to emerge stronger,” he says. His stay in Kuwait prior to his arrival in the UAE, gave him experiences during the invasion that have remained etched on his mind by teaching him lessons of grit, patience as well as being strong in the face of adversity. Sajan recalls how the brothers coordinated during those difficult days of war to help convey messages from people through the Indian embassy in Kuwait to be passed on to the relatives of these people. His stay in the UAE has definitely been a combination of excitement, challenges and achievements.

“Indians of every section of the society have contributed to the development of the UAE, in conjunction with the government of the country,” says Sajan.

He believes in leading a disciplined life with priority for health through Yoga and meditate to charge up the life and time spent with family and advises the younger generation to stay ahead of time.



His wife Ruby is also aligned well with his views about punctuality and discipline. A creative person from inside. She greatly appreciates how her husband has involved her in all aspects of his life including the management of their cricket team. Though her father is her true mentor.



“Captain is as good as a team, always set an examples for others”



Ruby, however, takes great pride in playing the role of a devoted mother to their two sons. She also considers it fortunate to be blessed with an understanding family and believes in upholding a strong spiritual connection and a great value system.

Their eldest son Azhar is pursuing his undergraduate studies in the American University of Sharjah while also nurturing his entrepreneurial venture – a store



which targets a niche market. As someone who is starting his own enterprise, he is looking forward to the Expo 2020 and the opportunities that it has in store.

His brother Sahil is a first year student in university and shares his father’s passion for football and cricket.

There is great bonding among the kids and father, they are really mirror to each other it’s more like a friends

in place where talking sharing the family matters even the games at equal pace.

Anis believe in equality - always ready to give back to society as she misses and cherished his roots. He says “Captain is as good as a team, always set an examples for others”





A STORY *of* ENTERPRISE & GRIT

ASHOK PURI Chairman - The MGT Group

“This country has got the best future”



Conquering new heights

The pursuit of excellence has made him an intrepid traveler navigating challenging places and war zones to further his business interests. Ashok Puri founded the MGT group in 1988 with an initial focus on global logistics and rapidly building a solid reputation in the region and developing diversified business lines in camp supply operation, humanitarian aid, national reconstruction, industrial and infrastructure development. Key clients of the MGT group include global oil and gas corporations, Militaries, NGO's international institutions such as the UN and private humanitarian foundations.

Losing his father at just fifteen years of age taught Puri to shoulder responsibility early. The youngest of four siblings in a close knit family, the entrepreneurial streak in him was evident as early as the age of eighteen when he started a small school in Delhi. By the age of twenty, he left for Kenya where he was made the Principal of a school overnight. He later joined the African Development Bank and went on to complete ACCA from London and is a Fellow of the British Institute of Management.

Throughout a lifetime of conquering new heights, the strong foundations of character and values given by his parents has provided a reservoir of strength and motivation. He distinctly remembers the night ritual of his father translating the Hindu scriptures for him. Another fond memory is that of playing on the premises of the Delhi airport where his mother worked as a Customs officer.

The opportunity to represent the University of Delhi as the captain of the cricket team gave him invaluable lessons about the partnership between Authority and Responsibility.



Dubai has been home for Ashok Puri and his family since 1982 and he remembers being immediately drawn by the strong sense of security.” Indians have contributed tremendously in shaping the country, as such.” He gives due credit to the leaders of the UAE in giving Indians a great sense of belonging. “This country has got the best future”, he says with conviction and adds that many countries in the region are learning from the UAE.

The close bond with his parents during the formative years has carried him through life and it reflects prominently in the relationship with his son.

“The art of management is primarily in life – relationships, time, home and work,”



“I am happy that my son is taking over the entire responsibility so I have a lot of time to look at the future rather than the day-to-day affairs.”

His wife Manju Puri, also his business partner hails from a background which places similar importance on family. A topper in Lucknow University of Doctors family who wanted to become a scientist she is extremely grateful for the business lessons learned from her husband besides other things such as the art of forgiving and giving. Starting her day watching the sunrise and practicing the art of giving by feeding the ants, fishes and birds, “The art of management is primarily in life – relationships, time, home and work,” she reflects. Manju hastens to add, “I learn a lot from my son and he constantly helps me improve.”

Ashok Puri acknowledges the vast potential of the Next Generation. He says, “Their vision is very broad and have access to a lot more information than what we had at their age”. “I am happy that my son is taking over the entire responsibility so I have a lot of time to look at the future rather than the day-to-day affairs.”

Poised to completely appreciate this transition, Neev Puri- a keen footballer, is all set to accept this baton of responsibility. With all respect to the teachings and advice of his parents he wants to be known for his own qualities and charter his own path while taking ownership of any mistakes along the way.

Ensnared in the wonderful Circle of love, the Puri family nurtures varied individual interests and hobbies while cherishing the strong bonds between them.





SPINNING *a tale of* INSPIRATION

DHIRAJ SALUJA - JMD SEL Group

“History is written, we have to take it forward, gracefully.”



Dhiraj Saluja combines technical knowledge, astute leadership qualities as well as a global outlook with effortless ease. However, the strength that powers his passion and forays into several countries across the globe is deep faith in the supreme power along with single-minded determination.

After schooling in Ludhiana, Saluja went to Moscow to pursue a degree in automobile engineering. Sowing the seeds of his successful career at an early age, he expanded the family business in textiles while studying there, with an office in Russia opened in 1993.





“I believe in looking at the opportunities and the positive aspect of every adversity,”

“I believe in looking at the opportunities and the positive aspect of every adversity,” says Saluja.

He travels extensively to the United States, Russia, Africa and Asia for business requirements, and makes use of the time during a journey to switch off from social media and involve in careful planning his future course of action, thinking ahead and reading.

His approach to leadership is to consider himself a part of his team of employees. “One has to be a part of them to grow.” I always tell my people that we are all equally involved with the business, says Saluja who admits to learning several things from his staff members.

While always busy with furthering his business initiatives across the world, expanding it manifold and venturing into new avenues, Saluja never loses sight of an attitude steeped in humility and consideration for others.

Being passionate about cars, this automobile engineer,

launched “SEL Car Rental” in Dubai – UAE in the year 2013. With strong business performance and customer satisfaction as the cornerstones of his business strategy,

Saluja plans to expand the operations manifolds, he has been awarded the Best Entrepreneur of 2014 (Male) at the Masala Awards.

Characteristic of Saluja appreciation of all things luxurious, the group has recently ventured into the F&B sector with fine dining concepts Tr!beca

With Tribeca’s farm-to-table organic culture, Dubai’s stylish dining concept coupled with the quest to bring DXB’s cocktail scene on par with the rest of the metropolises of the world, SEL are intent on bringing a breath of fresh air to Dubai’s dining scene.





On the personal front, he loves to spend time with his family, travelling and exploring the world. With his passion for cars he has a collection of several royal luxury cars
 “I would like to devote my time and efforts for the people who need our help and support.”

His wife Reema Saluja shares his love for travelling

and is content in her role as a homemaker, catering to the varying needs of their three children. Rima admits that she draws a lot of inspiration from her daughter who is the eldest. “She is an artist and I have learned a lot of things from her.”

Besides exploring the world, Dhiraj and Rima Saluja have a hectic social schedule. Their Kids Anabhra who

is studying in Claremont Libral Arts College, LA doing Environmental Architecture, young Aryika and Son Advik are in Wellington, Dubai.

Dhiraj Saluja’s story is one that fuels others with the motivation of striving to achieve one’s ambitions and being continuously driven towards reaching higher while always remaining polite and humble.





DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

DR NAWAB SHAFI UL MULK - Founder & Chairman of Mulk Healthcare Industry /
Global Hawk Chain of Diagnostics & Telemedicine Centre



A walk down memory lane unearths many treasured moments for this Icon – the close ties with his five siblings, the influential role their parents played in their lives and of course, his great love for sports and how it has provided the tenacity to courageously face every situation in life.

Dr. Shafi Mulk boasts a royal lineage, as part of the family of Nawabs of Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh. His father, an aspiration figurehead, an astute businessman and legendary sports personality played and captained the Calcutta-Mohamden sporting club and later became vice-president of the Football Federation of India.

“It is important to enjoy the journey as much as the destination.”



On the other hand, his mother was a poetess who loved arts, history and culture. Dr Mulk recalls, “Together they imbibed their individual interests in each of us but always encouraged us to follow our passions and reach for the stars.”

“My childhood memories revolve around the wonderful mix of camaraderie and rivalry I shared with my siblings, which ultimately helped each one of us excel in our individual professions and passions.” The right work ethics and the emphasis on perseverance were also early on their life.

After completing his MD degree, Dr Mulk’s first job was in a private hospital in Sharjah as a Specialist Radiologist and he made every moment count, adding up on his confidence and experience as a physician.

However, after working as a practicing doctor for 15 years, he decided to take the plunge and satiate his entrepreneurial thirst.

Dr Mulk is quick to add that he soon realized that “business needs to be approached with a different set of gloves and instruments.”

He was eventually able to prove the purity of his purpose with many lessons learned along the way.

Dr Mulk effectively combines a leadership style of mentoring and inspiring, while remaining open to different perspectives. Looking back at an insightful entrepreneurial journey, he reflects that, “When opportunity comes your way, every idea is worth exploring.”

He does not forget to add – “It is important to enjoy the journey as much as the destination.”



“When opportunity comes your way, every idea is worth exploring.”

His wife Yasmeen is a radiologist, business partner and co-director of Global Hawk Imaging & Diagnostics and Mulk Healthcare.

“This perfect partnership of minds has helped us compensate each other’s weak areas and strengthen our common purpose with great focus,” she says.

She admits that time management is what helps her play various roles effectively. Besides focusing on her career and spending time with family and friends, Yasmeen also takes time out to participate and speak at

various women empowerment activities, including the IWEF event in Dubai recently.

She is grateful for the stringent education system and the interaction with a diverse student community, while pursuing her medical studies at the prestigious Kasturba Medical College in Manipal that helped her evolve into an independent, professional woman. Born in Kuwait, she was also influenced by a mixed and secular community during the years of growing up.

Both Dr Shafi and his wife share an incredible

relationship with their two sons – Zoheb who is studying medicine at UCD Dublin and Zain who in grade 10 is a twice GEMS student of the year awardee and has decided to pursue further studies in Planetary sciences.

Yasmeen sums it up beautifully. “Parents are the biggest influence in the lives of their children and their sense of themselves.

Our greatest joy is when we see the manifestation of our time and efforts in the character and successes of our children.





PLASTIC SURGEON *with an* ARTISTIC STREAK

DR. SANJAY PARASHAR CEO-Cocoona Centre of Aesthetic Transformation

“Till today I am recognized for my honest and right advice ”



Dr. Sanjay Parashar has always believed in setting the highest standards for himself, with an insatiable desire to be the best. He grew up nurturing the single- minded determination of becoming a doctor and has, over a period of two decades achieved international acclaim in the field of plastic surgery and is also popular in craniofacial as well as breast surgery.

With the dexterity and talent of an accomplished artist or sculptor he brings perfection to numerous procedures such as liposuction or body contouring. He manages his business, the Cocoona Centre for Aesthetic Transformation with the help of his wife, Dr. Sangeeta Parashar.



“I learned that to be the best student, one has to teach.”

His burning ambition to be a part of the medical fraternity developed during his childhood spent in Nagpur, India where he lived with limited means.

Dr. Parashar grew up observing the sacrifices his parents made in order to give their five children a good education. It made him excel throughout in academics and he went on to accumulate several credentials. His stay in Bahrain, USA, Australia and South Korea helped Dr. Parashar gain a broader

perspective and immense learning. When he moved to the UAE in 2005, what awaited him was an initial period of struggle to gain the recognition he deserved, often working long hours. However he was soon able to carve a niche in a country with leading surgeons from across the globe.

“Till today I am recognized for my honest and right advice,” he says with obvious pride.

Dr. Parashar believes that Indians in the UAE have

done justice to the trust and support that the country has always given them. “The ethics and professionalism in our businesses is due to firm government policies,” he says in support of the legal system.

Dr.Parashar has been invited around the world to teach and share his knowledge. Interestingly, he says, “I learned that to be the best student, one has to teach.”





“I am able to balance everything because I am passionate about everything”

The motivation behind his success is a great love for family and he also takes time out for charitable work. Dr. Parashar is ably supported by his wife Dr. Sangeeta Parashar in his business venture. A self – confessed fitness freak, she manages her various interests of concept designing and interiors along with managing home and the Cocoon Center for Aesthetic Transformation.

“I am able to balance everything because I am passionate about everything,” she explains.

Describing their relationship with their children as one involving immense support and guidance, Dr. Sangeeta says, “We give them the flexibility to choose what they like and ensure that we are always approachable.”

The children have taken this freedom to endeavor to

achieve great heights just as their parents have set the perfect examples. In the words of their daughter Sanjana Parashar, “As a young adult trying to break into a new field, the hard work of my parents is a constant reminder that in order to reach my goal, I should never stop trying.” Deciding to work in the area of International Peace and Security, she is ready for any challenges that life may present.

“My biggest dream is to summit the tallest mountain on each continent and have already conquered Kilimanjaro,” says Sanjana.

Her brother Sidhant Parashar 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,” he says recounting the invaluable support his parents have always provided.





A SYMPHONY *of* SUCCESS

GEORGE MOHANANI Chairman - Cordinal Group of Companies

“Believe in you optimistic attitude, success will surely be yours”



The quality of being open to learn from different experiences
helps us emerge stronger and determines our success.

“His story of remaining flexible during different situations has been a huge source of inspiration for me,”



Early on in his career George Mohanani who hailed from the small city of Khandwa learned to quickly adapt to unfamiliar places, customs and cultures, starting with his first job in Hong Kong where he travelled extensively across South East Asia and the Middle East trading garments and sundries.

Later, he started an international indenting business in Saudi Arabia. However, being always drawn to Dubai, he opened a wholesale business in 1992, later expanding to Thailand. The Cordinal group has its focus on the garments industry but diversified into video rental, real estate and F&B.

The foundation to face these challenging circumstances was given to him during childhood when he frequently helped out at his father's store while studying at school. However what kept him going in those difficult days was music.

He was selected by the Cadbury singing contest and was broadcast nationwide. He still holds music very close to his heart and this is perhaps the secret to his perfect composure at all times. His smiling demeanor has won him many admirers, especially his two daughters – Priyanka and Gehna.

"My father is known for always being happy and remaining balanced. I believe a positive attitude is the best way to deal with challenges," says Priyanka.

"His story of remaining flexible during different situations has been a huge source of inspiration for me," she adds.

They are also grateful for the lessons of empathy and compassion ingrained by their mother, Varsha Mohanani. "Our mother has always taught us to be graceful, have more dignity and think from the other person's perspective too," says Gehna.



“The memories of bonding with our extended family, the connection and the sense of community that our parents have always encouraged has been a big part of our years of growing up,”



“The memories of bonding with our extended family, the connection and the sense of community that our parents have always encouraged have been a big part of our years of growing up,” she adds.

These wonderful set of values are sure to be the guiding force for Priyanka and Gehna as they delve deeper into the intriguing world of enterprise.

They also derive inspiration from their father’s philanthropic activities and the commitment he has shown in improving the lives of many people.

Gehna works along with her father and heads the F&B division of the Cordinal group, helping to run a chain of restaurants. Priyanka works with an agriculture technology start up, that grows agricultural produce throughout the year across the Middle East region.

The sisters have different personalities but bond really well ensuring to stay in touch every day. Gehna is very passionate to work on new business ideas as well as spirituality and personal development. Priyanka on the other hand balances her family and work life wonderfully and during her free time, she loves to

explore her creativity with colours on a canvas.

Priyanka and Gehna are great supporters of all the progress that is an integral part of life in Dubai, the place they now consider home and feel that events such as the Expo2020 will help the city advance further.

In the words of George Mohanani, "I am proud to be part of the Indian community here that has successfully been contributing towards the economy in the UAE, a place we all call home."



A LEGACY *of* EXCELLENCE

I P KHAITAN Chairman- Khaitan Holdings

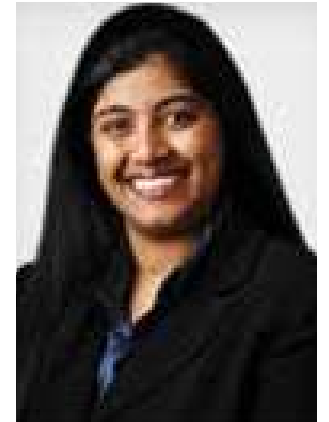
“Success will come if you do not allow it to get to the head.”



During a conversation with the Chairman of Khaitan Holdings, the grace and dignity that accompany exceptional leadership shine through. I P Khaitan’s message to the Next Gen Icons beautifully

encapsulates his belief - “Success will come if you do not allow it to get to the head.” He further goes on to add, “Work smart but be fair in all dealings, giving credit where it is due.”

“Work smart but be fair in all dealings, giving credit where it is due.”



Of his own admission, he is ‘a man of few words’. However, the great reputation and diversification he has created for the group in several countries speak volumes about the insightful leadership of the man behind its phenomenal growth.

He hails from an industrial family in India and recollects memories of his years of growing up in Bombay and Kolkata. “I absorbed a lot from the way my parents conducted themselves,” he says. He recalls the initial years of acquiring the knowledge of business by managing three sugar mills of the family in Uttar Pradesh as well as Magnesite Mines in Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand which is located at a height of 6,000 ft. above sea level.

The passion for cricket that he has kept alive till today goes back to his interest in the game through school and college days and recounts with pride the days of playing as part of the cricket team of Kolkata University and winning the prestigious Rohinton Baria trophy.

His wife Kiran Khaitan, who always been his supporting strength throughout his journey- speaks less yet a lady of firm determinations. Their three kids - Nalin, Nidhi Nevatia who stays in Chennai and Neeti Gupta who is in Dallas, USA.

“I absorbed a lot from the way my parents conducted themselves,”

Nalin Khaitan who has now taken over the reins of the company has been involved in learning the lessons of business from an early age, relies on the vast experience and advice of his father. He brings with him the dynamism and innovation of the younger generation that is sure to enable the group to maintain the cutting edge through a future of infinite possibilities.

Nalin looks back gratefully at the guidance and mentorship he has received from his parents through the years of growing up. He also adores the relationship with his two elder sisters and fondly recalls their support through every stage of his life, referring to them as a “second set of parents” due to the big difference in age.

He has inherited the love for cricket from his father and has been a keen supporter of the game in the UAE. He likes to be surrounded by family and friends, when not working. Nalin Khaitan looks forward to fulfilling his responsibilities and promises towards his family.

“My dream is to grow the business and ensure that Khaitan Holdings has a good global presence,” he says sharing his plans for the path he wishes to pursue.

The Khaitan family is looking forward to a time of celebrations as Nalin who is engaged to Medha Ahluwalia prepares to soon enter marital bliss.





An EXQUISITE FABRIC OF SUCCESS

KENNY KALWANI Chairman-York Furnishing Textiles FZCO

*“Each thing has a story, so are the fabrics and so is the life
so much to feel, see and explore- keep trying success will follow”*



Kenny Kalwani’s story is one that embodies his entrepreneurial spirit of seeking out change and the desire to widen perspectives. Born and raised in Mumbai with cherished memories of growing up in a large family of five siblings, he nurtured a fascination for business from an early age and joined his father’s enterprise.

In the UAE he started in the textiles sector but soon identified opportunities in furnishing and fabrics. The country with its intrinsic quality of welcoming ideas and innovation offered Kalwani an excellent platform to push the boundaries of growth and creativity through his flagship brand, York.

“When we moved here I was able to better explore the international range of fabrics,” he says.

Kalwani travels extensively and has always found the interaction with different people and cultures an exhilarating experience.”One learns a lot through travel,” he comments.

Along with his wife, Asha Kalwani he is active in the social circle and enjoys exercising and work-outs to maintain the balance in his life.





“Always be a step ahead of the competition,”

As the second generation of entrepreneurs, Kalwani’s daughter Pooja and his son Avinash have also embraced a love for challenges and the passion to deliver impeccable quality.

Avinash now leads the overall operations of the company, continuing the tradition of delighting the customers through elegant collections and exemplary service. He joined his father in business while studying and considers his father’s mentorship invaluable. “He has always provided a hands-on learning experience,” he says.

Avinash, who has inherited an inherent love for travel

and exploration, shares his plans about owning homes in different countries.

His sister Pooja Kalwani is following her creative pursuits in culinary delights and her niche brand Posh Platters believes in creating memorable gastronomic experiences through a delectable fusion of flavors and style. When not whipping up unique recipes or poring over cookbooks, she is busy tending to her business Silks N More in furnishing fabrics and loves to spend her time with her son during her spare time.

She considers the blessings of her parents,

indispensable for her success and speaks with gratitude about the teachings of her father in business as well as the support and care of her mother.

She describes the relationship with her brother as that of a ‘rock – solid friend’ and considers the presence of a wonderful family as the best foundation in life.

Both Pooja and Avinash have followed their father’s advice of hard work and innovation.

“Always be a step ahead of the competition,” he says as a message to help the new breed of entrepreneurs in their journey.



Silks n More...



ENVISIONING *the* FUTURE

KS PARAG Managing Director at FVC Inc.& Founding Members of FVC Middle East

“We need to take it head-on to convert it into a reward,”



This dynamic man behind the success of FVC Inc is always geared up to take on the challenges of the business that present themselves every day and translate them into opportunities and every opportunity into a business prospect.

“We need to take it head-on to convert it into a reward,” says K S Parag who is pragmatic about his achievements thus far and believes that he has a long way to go.

It is this entrepreneurial mindset and dynamism that has propelled the growth of the company as the region’s leading new generation value added distributor, enabling Parag to transform the telecommunications landscape across the Middle East, Africa and West Asia.



“The only way to stay ahead of the game is to constantly keep improving and look at how to service our customers better.”



Born in Hyderabad, and educated at a premier school there, Parag takes pride in his Alma Mater and attributes the disciplined life of the formative years for his success today. He considers himself fortunate to stay connected with a group of his school mates, many of who have made a distinct mark globally.

An engineering degree from the renowned Manipal Institute of Technology India, formed his foundation in Information Technology.

“The only way to stay ahead of the game is to constantly keep improving and look at how to service our customers better.”

He avers that in today’s fast-paced world it is important to keep learning and upgrading oneself every day and above that, to share one’s learning with the team. He believes that success lies in empowerment.

This is the philosophy that has helped him steer his company towards diversified growth and highest standards.

Parag follows a strict fitness regimen every morning, drawing inspiration from his father who was in the Indian army and continues to keep himself fit and active. He also finds swimming relaxing and is very enthusiastic about scuba diving, finding a sense of calm in the underwater realm.

*“First understand and identify what you are good at, whether a branch of engineering, medicine, fashion designing etc.
Then pursue that choice with passion and dedication.
Finally, be hungry to develop everyday what you are good at.”*

Sangita, Parag’s wife and his pillar of strength, hails from Mumbai and is a multifaceted personality. Boasting of a Management degree in Finance, she takes care of the Operations of the organization. She handles her roles at work and home with equal flair.

Being a people’s person and socially active, she juggles her other roles beyond home and office with effortless ease. Sangita is the Chairperson of the ICONS’ ladies committee and has taken on the mantle remarkably.

She is also very active in the parents’ group in her younger daughter’s school, and is the Parent representative of the class. An avid reader who likes to

keep herself updated on various subjects, she maintains that “in today’s world, education is the best gift you can give to the next generation. It is your way of giving back to the society as it will add value, thus paying back to your homeland also.”.

Parag and Sangita hold strong family values and this is reflected in the close bonding the family shares. Parag’s parents, Major Kumar and Mrs Amal Kumar also reside with them in Dubai.

The couple’s elder daughter Siddhi (20) is pursuing fashion designing at The London school of Fashion in United Kingdom, while the younger cute one Prisha (7)

is a junior school student in Dubai. The couple believe that travelling widens one’s horizon and thinking and this extremely close-knit family takes time out regularly to go on short interim breaks and annual vacations, with family and friends.

Parag has a very useful three – pronged approach that he would like to share with the next generation of Icons which he believes, will lead them towards success.”

“First understand and identify what you are good at, whether a branch of engineering, medicine, fashion designing etc. Then pursue that choice with passion and dedication. Finally, be hungry to develop everyday what you are good at.”





CAPTIVATING *the* BRIGHT SUCCESS

LALU SAMUEL Chairman and Managing Director- Kingston Holdings
Chairman- Industry Business Group, Sharjah
Managing Director- GlenDimplex & GP Battery

*“A leader understands the different behavioral instincts of the employees
and constantly adds value to the people of the organisation.”*



*Honoured by HH Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasbi - member of the Supreme Council
of the United Arab Emirates, & the Ruler of Sharjah*



Receiving Mohammed Bin Rashid Award from H.E. Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum





Lalu Samuel believes that the greatest challenge ahead for the new breed of entrepreneurs is to constantly reinvent the business and adapt to an ever evolving environment.

“They have to create their own success stories. Success is only a milestone in an ongoing journey,” he elaborates.

While the next generation brings innovations and flexibility, they draw inspiration from the strategies and advice of the previous entrepreneurs. Samuel’s story, which he describes in one word as ‘turbulent’, offers numerous interesting lessons.

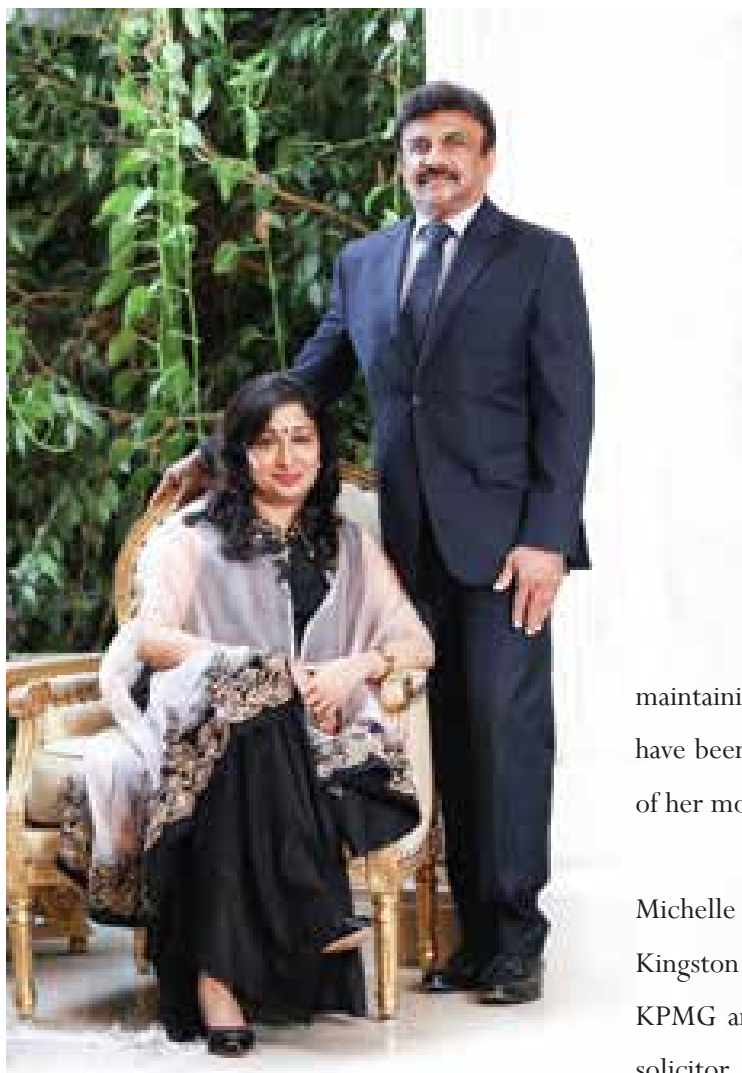
Starting out in business at just 22 years of age, he looks back with equanimity at numerous market recessions as well as the highs he witnessed while building Kingston Holdings, an award-winning business empire that brings diverse business arms including manufacturing, regional distribution, logistics and smart home solutions all under one roof.

Forging ahead with a forward thinking, futuristic approach, the conglomerate benefits from a leadership that commands respect of the employees. According to Samuel – “A leader understands the different behavioral instincts of the employees and constantly adds value to the people of the organisation.”

Samuel’s style of taking people along has clearly delivered the progress made by the business in achieving sustainable growth rooted in a culture of giving back to society.

Samuel, who hails from a business family in Kerala has been living in the UAE since 1982 and worked in British Telecom as the General Manager before venturing into the business arena. “Indians have been involved in every aspect of life in the UAE. The rulers of the country have provided an environment that promotes security and nurtures all communities,” he says.





*“They have to create their own success stories.
Success is only a milestone in an ongoing journey,”*

maintaining an attitude of empathy and admits to have been deeply influenced by the selfless nature of her mother.

Michelle Samuel their eldest daughter, works in Kingston Holdings while Ashley is employed with KPMG and Angela, her twin, is studying to be a solicitor. They are grateful for a balanced, grounded upbringing and have diverse interests including music and sports.

They are keen to take up challenges in life and look back with gratitude at all the experiences gathered so far.” I like to have a game plan to face challenges,” says Michelle.

Ashley adds, “The most important lessons learned were of resilience and compassion.”

Angela believes “take a step at a time, think about the future but also focus on on present tasks”

The three sisters have a wonderful collage of memories bringing together cherished family moments, that provides an anchor as they reach out for their dreams.



Samuel reveals an important ingredient for success. “The ability to quickly find solutions to the daily obstacles and move forward with conviction is important.”

Amidst the numerous challenges that are intrinsic to the progress of a business enterprise, Samuel ensures that he always makes time for family and frequently spends time with his wife and three daughters on holidays abroad.

His wife, Lovely Samuel, Director at Kingston Holdings, offers unfailing support every step of the way. A rank holder in Gandhian philosophy and qualified in HR management from XLRI, Lovely is actively involved in the business. She believes in



BEYOND SUCCESS *with a humble* BEGINNING

MOHAMMED A DADABHAI Chairman, Dadabhai Group

“Keep focus on your goals, good times are always there for you”



The journey of Mohammed Dadabhai, has been a series of awe-inspiring accomplishments, marked by great strides achieved across sectors including construction, travel and hotel management. His philosophy of life, however, is defined by a sense

of deep gratitude and compassion.

“I believe that happiness only comes by making others happy,” he says. “One cannot be happy when people around us are miserable.”

*“I believe that happiness only comes by making others happy,” he says.
“One cannot be happy when people around us are miserable.”*



Dadabhai who began by gaining experience in his father's shop in Bahrain, steadily expanded the enterprise to encompass several successful ventures. His contributions have been recognized by Bahrain and he is also involved in various social, philanthropic and educational activities.

He is a nominated member of the Shura Council and is the Chairman of the Bahrain- India society, comprising prominent members of both countries.



Dadabhai who admits having learned a lot from the 'School of Life', firmly believes that contentment comes from refraining from vices such as arrogance, jealousy and being miserly.

He reveals that one of the secrets behind his success is delegation. “It is the art that makes one grow and helps others also grow.”



“My mission is to give the next generation the complete confidence to continue the success we have created,” he says.

“The next generation, in turn, has to grow to adapt to the changing times,” adds Dadabhai.



“My mission is to give the next generation the complete confidence to continue the success we have created,”

“I continue to learn from my youngest grandchild who is only four years old.”



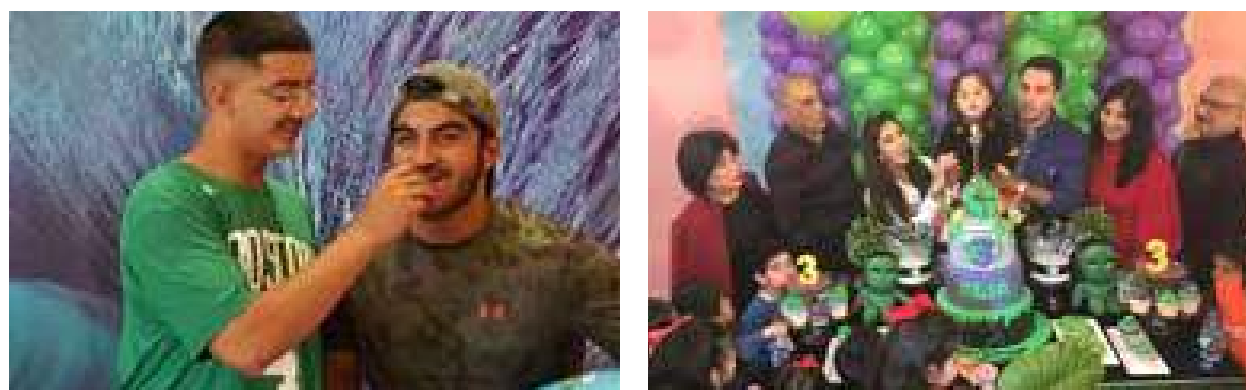
His wife Anisa, who looks forward to a simple and peaceful life, is born and raised in Hong Kong and finds happiness in always being there for her family and also involves herself in philanthropic activities. She admits to have learned several things from her husband.

Dadabhai looks back with contentment and pride at the way his children have taken charge of the business and continue to carry his aspirations forward. His eldest daughter is Arva. His son Shabeer is qualified in

Project Management from the United States and has successfully executed several prestigious projects including the Abraj-al-Lulu in Bahrain – the biggest private housing complex in the heart of the city. Married to Maisa and have two sons, Mohamed and Salman. Dadabhai’s son-in-law, Aziz Gilitwala, manages Dadabhai Travels. His other son-in-law Yusuf Adenwala is responsible for the advertising department of the business is married to their daughter Batool. Fatima married to Aziz Mithaiwala.

His youngest son Ahmed, who is qualified in Business management, is handling the corporate set-up which is responsible for the management of all the departments of the business. Married to Abeer and they having a cute Daughter.

Dadabhai says, “I continue to learn from my youngest grandchild who is only four years old.” Along with his wife, Dadabhai is now happy to spend time with their grandchildren.





ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SUCCESS

with a fiery passion for

NAWAB SHAJI UL MULK, Chairman, Mulk Holdings International



At the helm of one of the biggest manufacturing conglomerates of the UAE is Nawab Shaji Ul Mulk, a man of many facets, just like the multinational business empire he has created with diversified interests in Manufacturing of Alubond brand of Metal composites, Interior and Exterior Design and Fit –outs, Plastics, Power generation, Aluminum coil coatings, Healthcare, Real estate and Solar energy.

True to the advice of his parents to never rest on the laurels of his regal ancestry but to make his own mark, Nawab Shaji has succeeded in excelling

at anything he sets his mind on. His talent in cricket is well – known, he was brilliant in academics and great in business too.

Nawab Shaji Ul Mulk belongs to the royal family that ruled Kurnool in Southern India and fought the British colonial powers alongside the legendary ruler of Mysore, Tipu Sultan. Due to his family heritage Nawab Shaji admits to having “a slightly different childhood”, mostly confined to the home compound along with his five siblings and that is when he developed his devotion to cricket.



With H. E. Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan at T10 League

He landed in Dubai from his ancestral home in Kurnool in Southern India planning to stay only long enough to get a visa to complete a master's degree in the United States. However, though he completed all formalities for his studies, he decided to stay back in the UAE. He soon started his own venture manufacturing ceiling tiles. This later led him to establish Mulk Holdings which is now spread across several countries and its flagship brand – ALUBOND U.S.A. – Metal Composites has grown into the world's largest Metal Composite brand with operations in 11 countries and a market reach of 90 countries.

"I was the first to bring aluminium cladding to the UAE", says Nawab Shaji.

The thirst for success and a go – getter attitude, risk taking ability and an honest approach together helped him achieve the phenomenal growth of his business empire.

He admits to have come to the point of having lost everything at an early stage in his career when he was cheated by someone. However, as he says, "It is important to bounce back and not waste time thinking about what happened but to continue making things happen."

The experiences of life have been the major lessons for him. He admires several world leaders including Mother Teresa for her selfless service and Sheikh Mohammed's visionary zeal.

"The UAE and its rulers have provided a very conducive environment, security and opportunities for work and business. And in turn, the Indians have played a very big part in the development of the UAE."

Nawab Shaji reveals that as a young adult he was determined to make it on his own and wanted to be a

millionaire. "What excites me now is creating something new or to create a legacy in the world of cricket. More than a dream it's an ongoing urge to create," he says.

In business, sports or in personal life it is this thirst to give everything to follow his passion that has been the motivating force. He also emphasizes the need to have the backing of credibility at all times and says, "I always try to deliver what I promised".



With Emirates Cricket Board Members

“What excites me now is creating something new or to create a legacy in the world of cricket. More than a dream it’s an ongoing urge to create”



This inspiring competitive spirit is well balanced with a strong bond that he shares with his close-knit family. His son, Adnan, helps him run the business and he has two daughters also. He says, “We are like a group of friends, going for picnics, we have a good time.” His wife is the support strength and advisor for all of them. In a career journey spanning over 35 years several factors have influenced this business tycoon.

Nawab Shaji elaborates the point with his experience of asking his friends to invest in a new concept in cricket. “I had asked them to commit money on an unknown, untested concept and I received 9 confirmations in 48 hours. “Credibility takes a lifetime to achieve”, he says. His style of corporate governance

is also largely based on the foundation of trust. He believes in empowering his team to help them achieve the best.

The Chairman of Mulk Holdings holds several philanthropic interests close to his heart. The company believes strongly in corporate social responsibility and has helped in setting up schools for children, free clinics, libraries etc. “Giving has been a prominent culture in the company and the family and individuals”.

He is grateful for every turn that life has taken him on, including his mistakes and his decisions since he believes that it all contributes towards building one’s personality.



With Subhash Chandra and Subhash Ghai



INNOVATION^{with} LEADERSHIP INSIGHTS

NAZMUDDIN MOHAMMAD (NAZIM) President, Petro Gas Group

“Leading has been a habit for me.”



Nazim’s excellent leadership qualities honed right from his college days in Mangalore, India, have been instrumental in carving the reputation of his company, PetroGas Piping as an organization delivering world – class products and efficient customer service to the hydrocarbon and power industries.



*“I like to always be positive and smiling,
it reflects on the environment around you,”*

Through his experience of over four decades in the oil, gas and construction sector in the UAE, he has pioneered several changes and procedures in his industry, including the ISO 9000 certifications and Enterprise resource planning (ERP).

Nazim has never been one to shy away from challenges and he was in fact, the first in his family to move out of the country. In his own words, “Leading has been a habit for me.”

Throughout the peaks and lows of his career what has helped him remain resilient is an attitude of positivity, a great passion for work and spirituality.

“I always like to be positive and smiling, it reflects on

the environment around you,” he says.

Hailing the deep-rooted ties between India and the UAE, Nazim says “We are an integral part of the growth of the UAE and the warmth between the countries is encouraging.”

A great entrepreneur always remains open for change and responds to it as an opportunity.

Nazim has always remained adaptable to new technologies and innovations in his business.

The closeness and support of his family is also what keeps him enthusiastic and motivated always. His wife Rukhsana shares his love for music and films.



Nazim likes to mentor the next generation and is convinced that they have the best of everything. “If they work together and use their education, knowledge, exposure and life lessons, they can succeed better than our generation.”

Fuad Nazim adds, “The Expo 2020 is sure to create more awareness by bringing so many cultures together and will certainly help promote Dubai further.”

He also reaffirms the wonderful bond that the family shares, “We evolve together and are very close as a family.”

His younger brother Faiz Nazim, echoing his father’s sentiments of the opportunity they are fortunate to have for creating great synergies, he adds, “I would want to constantly improve and create something positive for everyone around.”

He is convinced of the great future that lies ahead for Dubai and the UAE as a whole and opines, “This country is a beacon of hope in the region.”

Nazim’s daughter Rumana who has a concept store for fashion, arts and culture is a lawyer by profession and remains grateful for the combination of qualities that their parents have instilled through example. She also loves to be part of social and environmental causes, a true nature lover.

She acknowledges the wonderful inspiration they have provided but emphasizes the need to strive for excellence and stay committed in order to make a mark.

The siblings are deeply appreciative of the legacy of success they have inherited and are poised to achieve greater growth and excellence.



“We evolve together and are very close as a family.”







VISION^{with} VENTURES

NEELESH BHATNAGAR, Owner and CEO of NB Ventures

“I do not believe in dreams as much I do in objectives”



An Entrepreneur with proven Leadership, Integrity and Passion, Neelesh has the innate vision, drive and determination to strengthen and implement positive change within complex organisations.

Born in India and having spent over 30 years in the Middle East he blends international management practices with local customs with exceptional success and has seamlessly integrated into the local culture at senior levels.

Transforming corporate strategy into operational execution

Neelesh is the Owner and CEO of NB Ventures, growth funding new-age digital companies. It is a Venture Capital fund to invest in Indian and Middle East startups. The vision is to invest in Indian companies which can then be brought to Dubai and the Middle east and Africa region.

He is the Owner of JSB Group of Companies and he is a Director on several Boards - USPL, Usha Shriram, DipTab, HealthifyMe, MonkeyBox, Foundation Holdings, Zeven Sports, Kims Healthcare, ESCA, Vipera, IPTL, IDFY, ENACT, RNB Productions etc.

He had a distinguished career for over 25 years with the Landmark Group, the largest retailer conglomerate in MENA and India, where he was Director/Board Member. He was also the Founder/Ex-CEO of both, Landmark Arabia and Emax. His earlier experiences include MNC's - Xerox, Inchcape PLC and TNT. He has recently launched VanityKart.com, a premium online store for women that focuses on fashion, beauty and wellness. Restaurants The Yellow Chilli and Pressman's and also Fitness Clubs Snap Fitness.

Visionary, with a strong relationship-driven and objective-focused approach, Neelesh is skilled in setting Businesses ground-up (Greenfield), Performance Excellence and Corporate Governance

and in recognition he has been awarded by Forbes Middle East as one of the “Top Indian Business Leaders 2018” and by Arabian Business as one of the “Indian Aces of 2018”.

Neelesh combines a burning passion for business with excellent people management skills, always providing an environment that is motivating as well as encouraging in order to bring out the best in his team. It is evident that this has been instrumental in this success, together with an realistuc approach to business.

His differentiating factor is his ability to ‘think differently’, communicate effectively and to take calculated risks. With a firm eye on performance, Neelesh inspires and drives his teams, even under strong pressures, to achieve long- term sustainable corporate growth and value creation.

Neelesh has a messege for all youngster as he had quit smoking after 29 years and appeal to new generation not to indulge in such un healthy habbits.





Neelesh has also produced Bollywood movies Rustom, Hanuman and Jagjit Singh.

Family is the most important part of Neelesh's life and he makes a dedicated effort to spend quality time with his spouse Rachna and their children, Nikita and Rushab.

Second to his family comes his passion for sports, most notably Tennis and Cricket. He is the co-owner of UAE Royals in Tennis and T10 Cricket League's Bengal Tigers.



- *Forbes Middle East Award*
- *Top Indian Business Leader Award*
- *Arabian Business Indian Ace Award*
- *Asia One Top 50 Business Leaders Award*



A REMARKABLE JOURNEY

PARAS SHAHDADPURI Chairman- Nikai Group

“Stay honest and focused on your mission.”



Life is beautiful but not always easy.



*“Today, everything looks easier compared to the circumstances of those days,”
In life, one has to enjoy every moment,”*

For Paras Shahdapuri’s family migrating from Pakistan to India soon after the partition and rebuilding life from nothing certainly presented numerous challenges and problems.

In fact, Shahdapuri recalls ‘a difficult childhood’ of studying in tents and walking or cycling several kilometers to reach school. However, he looks back on those difficult days without a trace of regret but as enriching experiences that have added greater depth and meaning to his life.

“Today, everything looks easier compared to the circumstances of those days,” he reflects. “In life, one has to enjoy every moment,” he continues with an appreciation that accompanies the attitude of viewing every day as one of learning and improvement.

This is the resilience and courage that prompted him to quit a diplomatic career to start the Nikai group, which has grown into a titan of the industry. In fact, when he was selected in the Indian Foreign Service, he distinctly

remembers how it was a celebration for the entire neighborhood.

His mantra for enjoying every moment is to be fully present in the moment and to be completely involved in everything he does. He believes in demarcating time well to harmonize work and life as well as to enhance productivity.

A typical day in the life of this septuagenarian gives priority to taking excellent care of his health, starting with a morning walk and a work out.

A firm believer in keeping up with the changing times, he is powered by a motivation to bring greater innovations to the workplace that makes life easier. His message to the next generation is – “Stay honest and focused on your mission.”

His wife Poonam, also agrees with him, who always believed in her husband’s views, she is contented, dedicated homemaker and a mother.



“Believe in yourself- world will believe in you”



His son Mahesh Shahdadpuri is also not one to shy away from challenges. “They are a pathway towards growth,” says the founder of TASC Outsourcing that enjoys tremendous success in the recruitment sector, specialising in providing professional, experienced staff for many industries ranging from retail to telecoms and aviation. Mahesh opted to create his own path but he often discusses professional challenges with his father, relying on his vast experience in business.

He believes that the values of his formative years are largely responsible for the success he now enjoys, recalling the pain of staying away from his family while studying at a boarding school.” I feel those difficult times have played a big role in shaping my life,” he says.

The young entrepreneur who has varied interests ranging from travelling and hiking to seeking out restaurants specialising in exotic food nurtures the dream of improving the lives of orphaned, poor girls through education. Mahesh enjoys spending time with his two daughters Aashna and Aniya.

“We live in the unique city of Dubai that has given opportunities to many people,” says Mahesh who believes that its progressive plans including the Expo 2020 will certainly pave the way for further growth in all sectors.



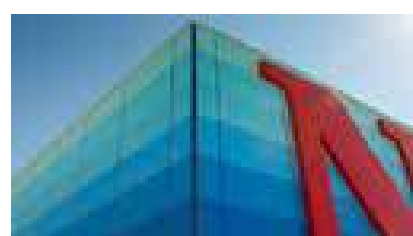




GOALS *for the* NEW PATHWAY

PRASAD GALLA Managing Director RGI

“I believe that the word impossible does not exist,”



Prasad Galla is the powerhouse of talent behind the transformation of RGI, from a company that started with small and medium-sized infrastructure contracts in India, to a front runner in the Middle East region's turnkey contracting especially for industrial projects.

"I believe that the word impossible does not exist," says Galla, giving us a glimpse of the passion powering his entrepreneurial prowess. "This is the attitude that will get you through anything," he emphasizes.

Growing up in a small town in Goa, Galla who is one among four brothers says that he enjoys nature immensely. The family hails from a seaside town near Hyderabad.

Armed with an engineering degree, Galla pursued MBA in the US where, he believes the interaction with people of various cultures helped broaden his horizons and also paved the way for his success in the multicultural environment of the UAE and the Middle East.

He arrived in the UAE in 2005, and is highly appreciative of the growing recognition that is given for the contribution of the Indian community in the country.

Supporting him in all his endeavors is his wife Pawandeep Galla who takes care of the Human Resources and Finance functions of the business.

Her vibrant, outgoing personality reflects a multicultural upbringing and interesting childhood memories in different parts of India that helps her get along easily with people from various backgrounds.

Pawandeep credits her husband with mentoring her initiation into various business aspects and the camaraderie between the husband and wife is the basis of a wonderful partnership between them.

"The message I want to give my children is to lead a disciplined life and pave their own path."





Pawandeep says, “The message I want to give my children is to lead a disciplined life and pave their own path.” Her style of parenting is one that believes in making her children independent and she urges them to bravely face all situations in life.

Their daughter Aashlesha is a high school student aspiring to have a great medical career as a surgeon. She enjoys playing the piano, reading and travelling.

“My parents support me in everything,” says Aashlesha, who likes to take risks head-on and believes she can manage them well. She is now looking forward to be involved as a volunteer for the Expo 2020 and is certain that it will bring plenty of opportunities to Dubai. Her younger brother Atiksh is a middle-school student, who is quite a tech savvy compare to his age and avid sports enthusiastic.

Prasad Galla has some excellent advice to help motivate the Next Generation of Icons.” Once you have ascertained a goal, write it down and read it every day till it is achieved,” he says.





the BUILDING DREAM SPACES

PREM GOPALANI Executive Chairman, Fortune | 5 Investments LLC

“Relationship building is more vital than concrete building”



The Fortune 5 group of companies has been adding to the charm and dazzle of the city with towering buildings and creative spaces that never fail to amaze with their architectural brilliance while offering convenience par excellence.

Prem Gopalani, the Executive Chairman attributes his success to growing up in a city like Mumbai and being part of a large family, which helped him learn important life skills at an early age. “It is always wonderful to be cared for not only by your parents but older siblings as well. Each lesson learned and the guidance given will always be invaluable.”



CASSIA
FOR MEN
DUBAI

AGI 5
THE FIVE FIVE FIVE

THE POLO
DUBAI

MILLENNIUM
DUBAI

GRAND TERN
MILLENNIUM
DUBAI



“Don’t be afraid to explore as every experience is a learning curve and only when you fall you rise stronger and more determined.”

Prem has vivid recollections about school and college days in Mumbai with experiences such as the commute by local trains, skipping classes and spending time with his friends that have added an unforgettable magic to the days that have remained etched in memory. His first job however, took him out of the city, all the way to Seoul where he took care of the family office that dealt with buying fabrics for the Middle East and South Africa operations.

“I continued to live in Seoul, travelled around the Far East, mainly Hong Kong, for work, after which I moved to Dubai

and set up the business here,” he says with a deep appreciation for the safe environment that the UAE offers for business operations as well as to raise families.

Prem expresses his repugnance for procrastination, taking on each day as an opportunity to further one’s dreams and progress towards achieving life objectives.

He also believes that he would like to do a lot more to serve his country by either contributing more towards the economy or simply expanding his philanthropy work.

However, he switches off completely from work while on family holidays, dedicating time to his wife and daughter, exploring places and rejuvenating to return with renewed energy.

His wife Neha who was born and raised in Ahmedabad, is the eldest of three siblings. Her favorite memories of childhood revolve around the time the family would gather for dinner and then have a discussion where everyone is given a chance to speak about one inspiring person or a learning that they came across through the course of the day used to call “Ghar Sabha”.

Neha holds an MBA in Finance and is proud that she is now living her dream as an entrepreneur, managing her business in Abu Dhabi and also planning the launch of a new brand of wellness based baked goods. She describes herself as a calm and positive soul. Loves to read books and spend time with pet “TACO”

Their marriage partnership is one of great mutual understanding and care and Neha takes equal pride in the great bond with their only daughter, Drishti.

Drishti enjoys her relationship with her parents and the freedom that she has to approach them with anything, trusting their guidance and advice.

“Macroeconomics is a subject I really love and there’s so much that can be done with it for improving the lives of others, letting them gain further access to resources and increasing their standard of living.”

Though she fondly remembers her childhood but as looking for the future she stresses on the economic growth of UAE along with rich cultural and heritage values, expecting lot out of EXPO 2020

She likes to take a break from studying by singing or playing the piano.





Fresh PERSPECTIVES *from the* CHALLENGES

PREM PUNJABI, Managing Director - Nimol Corporation DMCC

“Learn from your mistakes just once then be cautious and pursue for your goals”



The entrepreneurial journey is an immense learning curve – with lessons about building relationships, leadership, financial prudence and many more.

Prem Punjabi advises the new generation of

entrepreneurs to make the most of it and use their knowledge, skills and independence to enhance the business they have inherited. However, he also cautions them about people who may not always have their best interests in mind.

“It is much easier to lose money than to make money,”

Punjabi looks back with satisfaction at the journey that has taught him great resilience and the power of determination.

It started in Nigeria, where he initially gathered experience by working in a company and then started his own enterprise.

However, he moved to the UAE in 2003 and is deeply appreciative of the secure environment and great quality of life that the country offers. It also offers numerous opportunities for growth and development.

And the business that he has nurtured and is now spread across the globe is also evidence of his drive and

strong will to rise above all odds. However, Punjabi is quick to add that the support of his family, especially his wife has played a big role in shaping his work and life experiences.

He is also very confident about the ability of his children to take forward what has been created for them. However, he warns them to be careful about how they manage their business because – “It is much easier to lose money than to make money,” he reflects.

He has great admiration for the work and achievements of the members of the ICONS group. “They all have great dynamism and I look forward to continue learning from them,” says Punjabi.



“ICONS - all have great dynamism and I look forward to continue learning from them,”



His wife Geeta Punjabi has been involved in humanitarian activities for almost two decades, raising financial aid for the underprivileged and marginalised sections of society. She is quite obviously the central force of the family and a great source of strength in every situation, offering solace and spiritual calm. “The parents are a great role-model to inspire the children to always stay united and provide great energy for each other,” she strongly believes.

Geeta, who has a Masters in business administration and has also completed Chartered accountancy is a complete extrovert and also boasts several creative pursuits.

She has an important message for the younger generation of women – “It is very important to maintain a great balance between the family, home and career.” And extending her strong belief in maintaining



a balance between all elements of life, Geeta has now gained certification as a health coach as well.

The couple takes obvious pride in the progress of their daughters. Anmol, the younger one has joined her father’s business and is also keen to extend her business acumen to the fashion industry. She shares great admiration for her sister Nisa who is a qualified Architect and Interior Designer and has set an example of strong-minded focus on her goals. She is planning to set up her own practice after gaining some corporate experience and understanding the rules and regulations of this specialized field. Nisa follows her parent’s values and guidance, on a daily basis she believes “all of us are great buddies.”

Anmol says that the most important lesson that she has learned from her father is to – “Never say no to an opportunity.”





EVOLVING ON TRUST

RAMESH NARANG, Founder and Managing Director - FSIME

“Today we have diversified interests in the construction and real estate development sectors across the three countries.”



Safa Automotive has garnered a strong reputation and loyal clientele over years of serving in the UAE, leveraging on a promise of trust and dedicated service.

Ramesh Narang, the man responsible for this remarkable name in the automotive industry, extends his business acumen and expertise

to several other business enterprises including Narang Projects, Indo gulf enterprises and Senator Security LLC.

Born and raised in Bangalore in a small family of four members, he completed high school education from St. Joseph's school and graduated from R.C. College of Commerce.

“It has been a roller coaster ride with the world economies going up and down, but the process has given me enriching experiences that I will always value.”



“I deeply cherish the childhood memories with my parents, without a worry in the world,” he reminisces.

“I always nurtured the dream of growing the family business and expanding it to different parts of the world. After 40 years of embarking on this journey, I have been able to expand business operations in India, Dubai and U.S.A,” he remarks about the satisfaction of watching his vision of growth evolve over the years.

“Today we have diversified interests in the construction and real estate development sectors across the three countries.”

“We also believe that it is important to invest in the future generations through children’s development programs and keeping this in mind, we acquired the master franchise of a 40- year- old American concept called MyGym. We are currently rolling out multiple centers across India and are confident that children across the country will benefit from this robust program.”

He describes his stay in the UAE as a gratifying journey.” It has been a roller coaster ride with the world economies going up and down, but the process has given me enriching experiences that I will always value.” I don’t believe in having regrets, rather learning from situations. Living in Dubai has provided my family and me with the environment and platform to grow and achieve success over the last many decades.

Narang reveals that his life philosophy has been based on being honest, working hard and partying harder.

“Life is a learning process and I learn something new everyday. It is not about the cards you are dealt with in life; its how you play them that matters.”



Narang looks forward to be involved in more social and charitable activities that allow him and his family to give back to the community and aid those less fortunate & able.

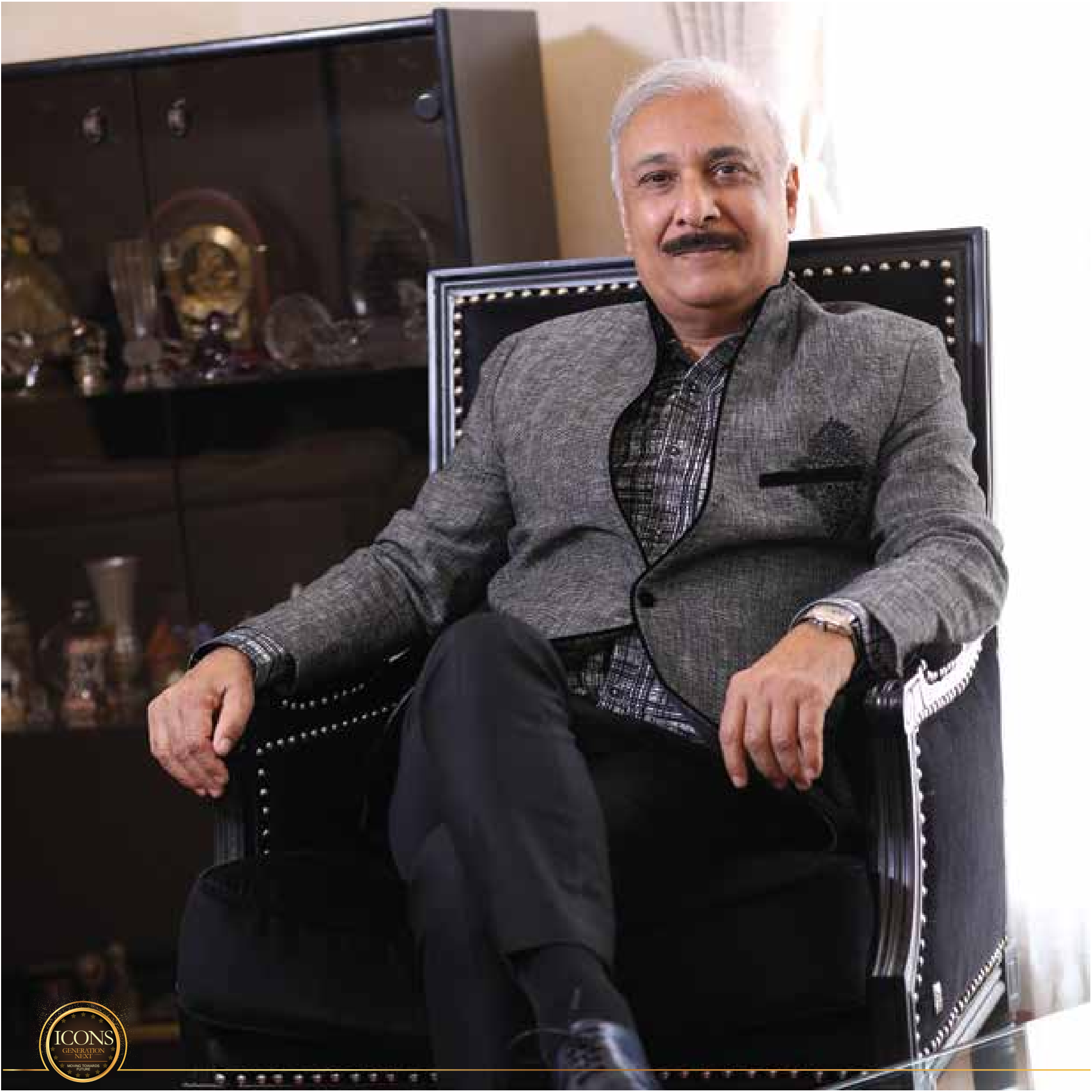
Narang’s philosophy and the success he has created speak of an exemplary dedication to serve and an honest approach that reflect in the respect and trust that his enterprise has enjoyed over several years. He advises the next generation to always maintain respect for one’s elders as well as employees.

“I always nurtured the dream of growing the family business and expanding it to different parts of the world. After 40 years of embarking on this journey, I have been able to expand business operations in India, Dubai and U.S.A,”

His son Sanjay a graduate from Boston University who runs a company with a futuristic vision- FSIME Construction LLC. A strong believer in keeping himself fit in health and business simultaneously. He prefer to be quite in socially yet always ready to support anyone in need.

His wife Sahiba, Commercial Director at Fête Events and kids Parisa and Ayaan always keep the warmth in this challenging life.





DRILLING *the* POWER OF POSITIVITY

RIAZ DAUD Managing Director Mehta Hardware Trading Co. Ltd



Riaz Daud's stay of over four decades in the UAE traces the incredible transformation of the country together with the trajectory of progress in his own life and career. Arriving in the UAE at the age of just eighteen years, with the help of his uncle and mentor, Dr. Iqbal Daud, he gained experience and expertise in diverse business areas before joining his brother in establishing and managing their own

hardware business — Mehta Hardware Trading Company.

Through all the different stages of his life what remains unchanged is the infectious positivity with which he has always approached life. And he passes on this boundless enthusiasm to his children with the advice to always value life by living it to the fullest.

“We all should have attitude with a gratitude”

This great attitude combined with a natural flair for salesmanship and marketing have been instrumental in helping him steer the growth of Mehta Hardware Trading Company towards significant heights.

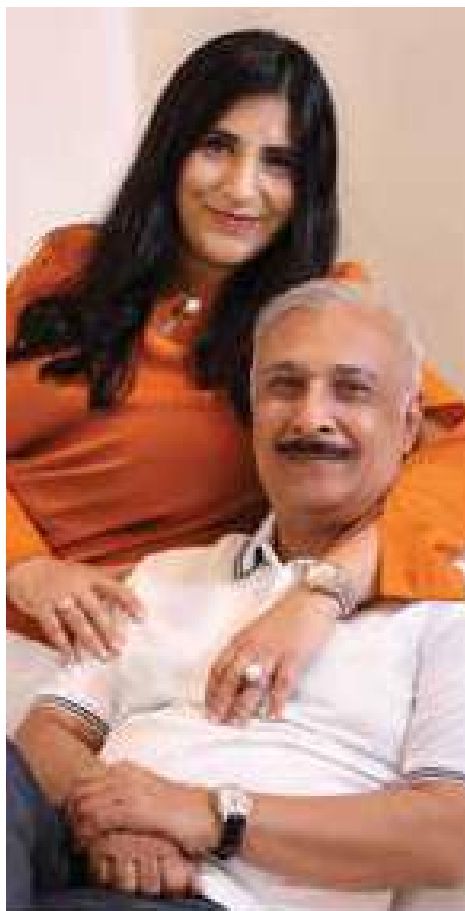
Daud considers that UAE has given him everything in life but remains inextricably linked to his memories of a happy childhood in Nagpur, India where he lived in a joint family. In fact, he still likes to revisit the same places in his home town that he used to frequent during his years of growing up.

He says without a doubt, “Asians are the major contributors to the UAE economy. This he knows from a wide network of friends and acquaintances build over the years.

Daud has always enjoyed the multicultural vibes and the dynamic environment that UAE has to offer. He has immense faith with the visionary rulers and the government of UAE for supporting all expatriates and make them prosper in various fields. He also emphasizes -not only in business the rulers have made this country a stunning, safe and pleasant place to live in, that's why internationally UAE has become a awe factor for many.

UAE is the place where we have heard many stories about “rags to riches” – because of the great leadership of the rulers.

Daud likes nothing more than spending time with his family and is a contented man continuing what he has always loved to do – to work in his own business.





Daud's wife Tasneem involves herself completely with the upbringing of their three daughters. She encourages their involvement in various activities and has inculcated in them a great love of reading. "They are never hesitant to share anything with me," she says, giving us a peek open and friendly approach she has always encouraged. This sentiment is echoed by their children. Their youngest daughter Insia says that she draws great

inspiration from her father's journey as an entrepreneur and also from her mother who has created her own path. "My dream is also to be my own boss, just the way our parents have shown us," she says. Their daughter Mariam who works as an interior designer considers her parents as her first teachers in life giving her the belief system and all the learning that have formed the foundation of her work and life.

She says," Our parents are the axis of our life." This is the essence of the relationship that the family shares and the wonderful example that Raiz Daud and his wife have provided for their children to emulate. Eldest daughter Abeer who is very fond of nature and believes in humanity and great supporter of social causes to make things great for all human being, lives in Bahrain married to Ahmed Mohammad Dadabhai.





DREAMZ GALORE *for everyone*

RIZWAN SAJAN, Founder and Chairman, Danube Group

*“Hard work is the key to success.
You did not come this far to only come this far. Keep going!”*



His success story is exactly what dreams are made of. However, the realization of the dreams was interspersed by several obstacles that have contributed towards making him a great inspiration for many. He took over the responsibility of his family as early as the age of

sixteen, with the sudden demise of his father. Two years later he went to Kuwait where he was able to make good advancement in his career. However, the invasion of the country by Iraq forced him to leave and start all over again.



“The credibility that you build has the ability to support you through the toughest times,”

It led him to the UAE where he would eventually feature as a shining example of entrepreneurship. Sajan began with establishing a small trading enterprise with his wife Sameera as his first employee and it has burgeoned into the Danube group, widely recognized in the region as the market leader in building materials and has evolved into a household name for lifestyle and décor along with establishing several other divisions. The group has witnessed further growth through Danube Properties.

“Indians have made a mark in every sector of the UAE economy”, says Sajan “This has been made possible through the great opportunities and excellent support extended by the country,” he adds.

Sajan attributes the success of his company to a proactive approach towards catering to customer requirements, highlighting its entry into hitherto unexplored markets. “We were able to cater to the

niche markets such as dealing in areas of special marble, wood, veneer etc,” he elaborates.

Similarly, in the real estate sector, Danube recognized the need for affordable housing and launched an attractive payment scheme that helped business flourish.

The indispensable factors that are responsible for this great success are undoubtedly the hard work and focus that Sajan has imbibed since the early days of his career. “The credibility that you build has the ability to support you through the toughest times,” he says. These values also constitute the work culture that he has ensured that his son Adel grows up with.

Adel Sajan Starting at the age of 13, he gathered the experience of understanding the functioning of every division of the business conglomerate.



“I am extremely fortunate to have received the perfect combination of my father instilling the right attitude towards work while my mother has taught me the value of money among other things”
- Adel



A young, visionary and charismatic entrepreneur has been one of the key drivers of Danube’s strategic growth post-2009 with the establishment of Danube Buildmart, now Danube Home. Credited with the expansion of the Danube group across many major countries like UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain, USA, Germany, Turkey, Spain, India, Malaysia, Vietnam, China, and Italy. He reaffirms that the work culture that he has learned from his father has helped him immensely and continues to work towards achieving great pinnacles of success.

“During the summer vacations, I worked in the

warehouses, learnt to identify different materials, went for buying exhibitions and gathered invaluable life and work lessons,” he reminisces about the incredible head start he received that has helped set him apart.

“I am extremely fortunate to have received the perfect combination of my father instilling the right attitude towards work while my mother has taught me the value of money among other things”, says Adel.

Sameera, the lady of the house, is the silent strength behind the success of her family. Initially shy, she opened up as we progressed and we were taken by her sweet and warm nature. Now involved with lot of social work.

Sana Sajan, Adel’s wife, ex Beauty queen & a doctor turned Islamic calligraphy artist who believe in simplicity yet keeping with a pace of modern world, a true next gen.

The Sajans have balanced a lot of fun times and social gatherings together with the hectic lifestyle that accompanies the management of a business empire.





RECORDING *the* NEW HORIZONS

ROHIT VERMA Vice President – Aarvees Group

*“We are blessed to live in a country which is safe, secure, peaceful and attractive.
So, it becomes our humble responsibility to perform the best in return,”*



Born and raised in New Delhi, Rohit Verma came to Dubai in 1995, joining his elder brother - Rajat Verma in running the 'Qasim Recording Company' and later diversified their business, the Aarvees group into several sectors.



“I strongly feel that learning is an inward process, which I have learned to embrace with humility and wisdom over the years.”

'Aarvees Entertainment', launched in the year 2000 in the arena of films theatrical distribution and Bollywood joint film production, has garnered a majority of the market share. 'Aarvees Real Estate' the real estate division of Aarvees includes high-value trading, underwriting as well as mid-size development. Whereas in the hospitality sector, the group forayed into the Indian market with Teso waterfront, a boutique resort in Goa. 'Aarvees Investments', is another strong arm of Aarvees Group which is keen to expand globally with the right opportunities to invest in. 'Money First', with a focus on Financial solutions, has been added in the year 2018. The brothers are devotees of Mata Vaishno Devi and have also started two popular restaurants offering contemporary facilities, at the pilgrimage site.

The great partnership that the brothers have shared since

childhood has given them a lot of wonderful reminiscences. Verma recalls the incident during his childhood when they decided to skip school and visit the famous Lodhi gardens. When they did not return on time, their parents alerted the police and this led to obvious consequences when they finally arrived home but remains etched in their minds as an unforgettable memory. However, the discipline and values instilled by parents and teachers during those years continue to be a guiding force.

Rohit Verma is highly appreciative of the support extended by the UAE government to all nationalities, especially the Indians. “We are blessed to live in a country which is safe, secure, peaceful and attractive. So, it becomes our humble responsibility to perform the best in return,” he remarks.



“The first and foremost thing is to believe in yourself and never stop chasing your dreams.”



Verma believes that life is all about perception and welcomes new ideas and avenues for growth. While managing time well, he also practices regular reality-checks and introspection to improve learning and efficiency every day.



He says, “I strongly feel that learning is an inward process that I have embraced with humility and wisdom over the years.” And while this journey of constant self-analysis and improvement helps him plan and organise his life better, the time spent surrounded by family, especially his sons – five year-old Rayaan and three year-old Rudransh, as well as his niece and two teenage nephews is deeply rejuvenating by giving him a peek into their innocent worlds.

Verma admits that his father has been a wonderful inspiration in his life. His wife Sonali also agrees that her father-in-law has indeed been the guiding light of the family. “He has always been showering us with deep love and positivity, inculcating the best morals and values in all his grandchildren.”

With her early childhood years spent in Jammu and Kashmir, Sonali moved to Delhi for schooling and has completed masters in Psychology.

A proud homemaker, she loves interacting with people from all walks of life, believing that it is a great learning process. “Being a psychology student, I have always been passionate about people, their minds and hearts have always been of great interest to me,” she says.

Rohit Verma has a wonderful message of motivation for the next generation – “The first and foremost thing is to believe in yourself and never stop chasing your dreams. Your strong determination will give wings to your dreams and make you strive for the best that you can achieve, keeping in mind the best of your capabilities.”





TRACING A REMARKABLE PATH

ROY CJ- Chairman, Confident Group
Honorary Consul of Slovak Republic

*“Challenges change my perspectives of goals and accept them
with passion and aggression.”*



*“I always prefer to set goals in life.
Once you thrive, there is no better feeling than that”*



Dr C J Roy conquers numerous heights with ease and confidence. The founder and chairman of the Confident group – a conglomerate with diverse business interests spread across India, the UAE and the US, he is a familiar face on dozens of reality shows, and well-known through his movies and international cricket sponsorship.

The dream he nurtures is to serve the people around him and to continue providing the best homes to his

customers. In fact, Roy confesses his ambition to accept responsibilities in Government service. He is currently the Honorary Consul of Slovak Republic, which is a member of the European Union.

Born and raised in Bangalore, he has completed MBA from France and earned a Doctorate from Switzerland.

He recalls an occasion of great pride when he was

invited recently as the chief guest and felicitated by his Alma Mater for a convocation programme.

Starting his career Planning-in-charge for the American multinational, Hewlett Packard, he later ventured into the real estate business in India and expanded it manifold by earning the confidence of customers and delivering unsurpassed services. Through dedication and hard work, he has diversified the business into several sectors.





He says, “Challenges change my perspectives of goals and accept them with passion and aggression.”

Roy decided to choose the UAE as the ideal place to expand his business empire as well as to provide his family with world- class living standards.

“The UAE government has always recognized the efforts of the Asian community,” he says.

Roy explains that the constant motivation that fuels his

dreams is the desire is “to touch the lives of others through one of the three important requirements – food, clothing and shelter.” He wishes to continue providing the best homes to his customers.

Roy has done numerous charitable program touching thousands of life. Currently Roy is Building/Renovating 101 homes in kerala for the flood victim Besides, Roy nurtures the strong ambition to accept responsibilities in Government service in order to serve the people better.

He shares his magnificent dreams with his wife and business partner, Liny Roy. They have a son, Rohit who is an architect and daughter, Ria, a student of Grade-12.

Roy says, “My children are my good friends and I guide them by example just as my parents did.”

The message from the man who has based his dreams and business on winning the confidence and trust of people is just that – ‘Be confident’.



PROACTIVE *to* CHANGE

SHAILENDRA RUGHWANI Chairman, Experts Group

‘Being the change that one wants to see.’



Shailendra Rughwani's name is synonymous with the Computer Industry in Dubai and he enjoys considerable esteem in the industry. However, he urges the next generation to remain humble and strive for excellence in whatever they choose to do.

With formative years spent in Hyderabad, where he graduated and then in Nagpur where he finished his Post Graduation, Rughwani says that losing his father at the age of nineteen was a life-changing incident which greatly shaped his perception about life, people and relationships.



“Indians have taken a leading role in every field in the UAE,”

Starting his career in Japan in a IT Company where he developed a love for the language and the people, Rughwani continues to maintain some great friendships he earned during his stay there.

However while on a visit to the UAE in 1994, he admits to have fallen in love with the country as soon as he set foot on its shores.

“It seemed like an extended part of India,” he says, recalling how the country instantly made him feel at home.

He decided that this would be the ideal place for his family and business and then there was no looking back.

“The journey has been excellent and we kept diversifying within the IT sector and beyond with interests apart from IT in Health Care, Interior

Design and Contracting, Dairy, Property Development , Construction of Malls in India and the group has now ventured into Oil & Gas and Energy” he says. “We are now a diversified group.”

Rughwani recalls how he was extended an invitation by the Indian Minister of Aviation to share the expertise of his company for revamping the security surveillance of Indian airports. The Indian arm of Experts Group, ESEM Infotech Pvt. Ltd has implemented the City surveillance of Mumbai by installing five thousand CCTV Cameras in the City. “Indians have taken a leading role in every field in the UAE,” he says about his second home.

Rughwani also derives motivation from the numerous causes that he contributes his time and has always believed in ‘being the change that one wants to see.’





“I like to read biographies and imbibe from the experiences of different people.”

As the president of the Dubai Computer Group, he led the campaign to exempt the customs duty for Computers and eventually attaining the goal. He is also involved in a community supporting Thalessemia patients.

He enjoys reading fiction and has a great love for quotes. “I like to read biographies and imbibe from the experiences of different people.”

He also enjoys a great social life, together with his wife, Harshal, who is a contented homemaker and also

enjoys reading, especially inspirational books. She greatly cherishes the strong family ties that they have nurtured.

Rughwani tells the next generation of Icons -“It is so important to carry forward what we have created. It's also important to be humble, stay grounded as its going to be survival of the fittest as we get into the next decade.”

“Keep striving to learn and grow from experiences and people.”

Their son Jatin Rughwani, is poised to take on the future and tries to always push himself out of his comfort zone and expand his horizons. He lived in London for six years, pursuing his undergraduate studies and later a Masters degree.

He is now busy with his start-up company and also coordinates projects within his family business.

His younger sister, Jiya is seventeen years old and is preparing to join the University in USA in 2020.





SOHAN ROY Founder Chairman & CEO- Aries Group, Founder Director Indywood Carnival

"I believe that the word impossible does not exist,"



Sohan Roy's life is an enriching amalgamation of creativity, technical expertise and entrepreneurial vision all combining to create an exquisite story that is truly awe-inspiring.

He traces the beginning of this journey of conquests and achievements to the ‘unforgettable and variegated’ experiences he gained, growing up in the village of Aickarakkonam in Kerala, as the youngest among four siblings. His parents were Sanskrit scholars who instilled the love of words in him at an early age and the joy of poring over books in the village library is among his favorite recollections of a happy childhood. That is not all.

“I believe in following the 1:1:1 ratio assigning equal share of time for job, myself and loved ones to achieve the perfect work life balance,”

“I remember that before the dam that stands near our village was fully commissioned, we had to undergo a period of flood annually. The sequestered life when the village lost all connections with the nearby town is yet another deeply embedded memory,” he continues.

Roy who has witnessed his village achieving major strides including its transformation into technological advancement is delighted to contribute towards its progress. He takes obvious pride in the fact that that the most efficient branch of his enterprise is the one functioning in his village of Aickarakkonam.

Roy is also proud of the contributions of the Indian community in his second home – the UAE, and

especially the inextricable link of the maritime industry towards the nation’s progress. His multinational conglomerate-the Aries group with 49 companies operating across the globe is built on the foundation of optimum time management as the path towards maximizing efficiency.

Roy extends this in his life as well. “I believe in following the 1:1:1 ratio assigning equal share of time for job, myself and loved ones to achieve the perfect work life balance,” he reveals.

He boasts award-winning directorial ventures in Visual arts but loves to dabble in poetry writing during his spare time.





He finds perfect companionship in his wife Abhini – an established classical dancer, craft enthusiast and the founder of Aries International Interiors in the UAE.

She devoted a lot of her time towards nurturing the business during the early years but is now able to explore her great love for travelling.

While Roy stresses on efficiency as the secret to survival in an increasingly competitive world, Abhini urges her children to remain grounded while flying

high, reminding them about family values and the strength of relationships.

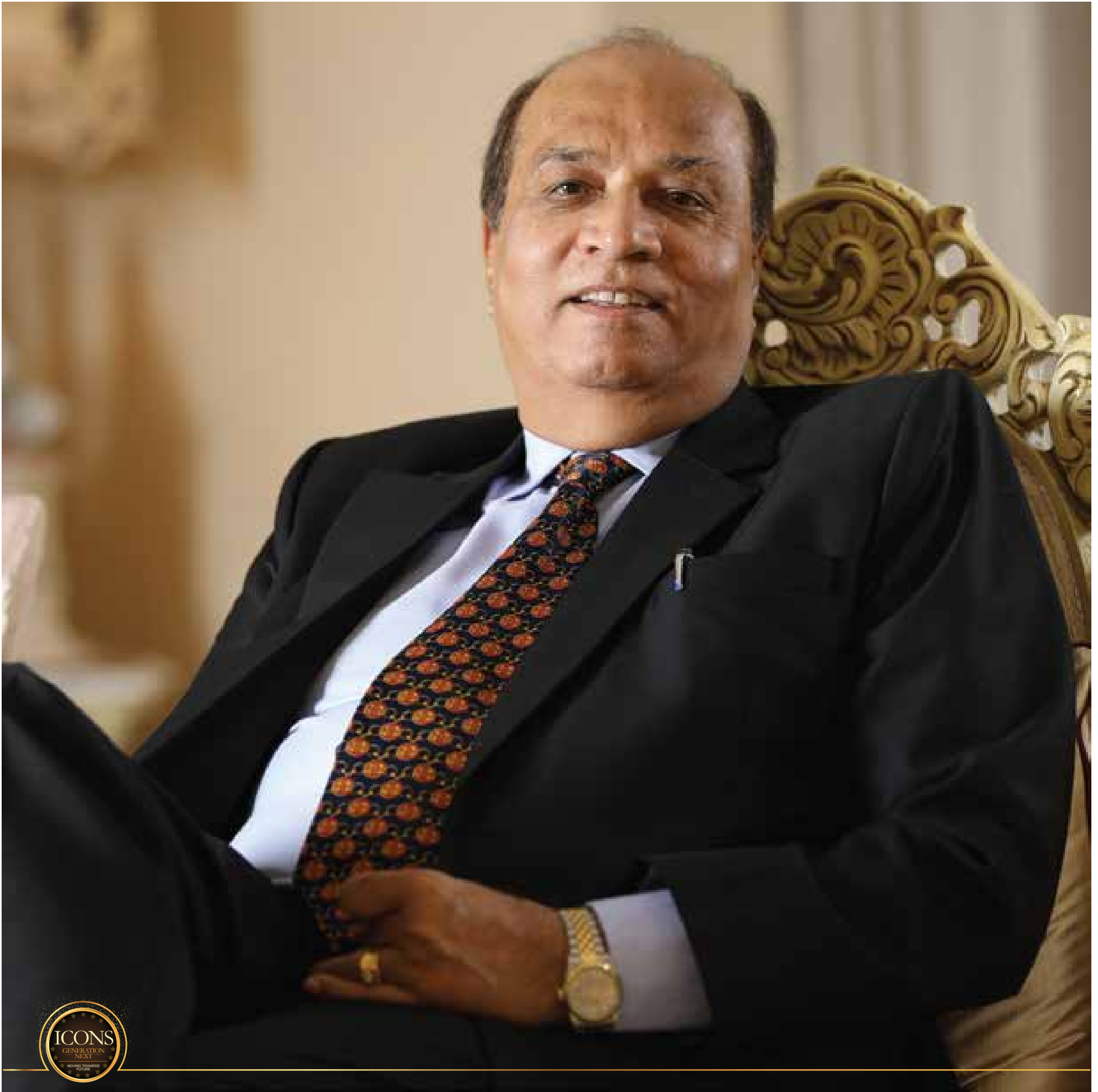
Their daughters have inherited not only their creative talents but also a culture of professionalism. As the elder one Nirmalya says – “A lot of my organizational, social and hospitality skills are from my mother, while my punctuality, positive thinking and leadership qualities have been developed from my father.”

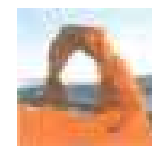
She is reveling in her freedom of discovering life in a

new city but continues to be amazed by the pace of progress in the UAE and the promising developments the Expo 2020 holds in store for the youth.

Her sister Nivedya would love to use the valuable guidance provided by her parents to create her unique path in life. She likes to constantly take on new challenges and describes herself as experimental. She emphasizes the need for greater environment consciousness among the new generation as well as the corporate sector to transform society.







DIVERSE DIMENSIONS

SURESH SAWLANI Managing Director Red Rock Consultancy

“Life has a story - you must know how to read it”



Suresh Sawlani's professional journey spans various sectors such as all kinds of civil engineering, projects from mining & minerals, high rise tower & custom made houses, nuclear power plants, textiles, real estate projects and travel as

well as different markets including the UAE and US. His father was in general trading business in Gwadar, now in Pakistan and was forced to flee from there overnight to Dubai in 1951 during turmoil,



Born and raised in Mumbai he has five siblings and recalls a favourite memory of his school life, when he bunked school for three days and went to the Raj Kapoor studios with a friend where they were both given small roles in a famous movie of the good old days and received payment for their acting.

Sawlani moved to the US in 1971 and recieved a Masters degree in civil engineering from Sacramento, California and stayed, initially working with several large organizations before setting up his business as a builder and developer.

His daughter, who stays in Miami with her husband and two children, now takes care of the real estate business there. In Dubai, his son manages ‘Richmond Gulf Tourism’ – a leading travel management solutions provider. Sawlani’s other business enterprise in the UAE, ‘Red Rock Management consultancy’, deals with

the entire gamut of services including concept, design , construction, furnishing and finally the sale for turnkey projects.

During his stay in the US, he kept for his passion for music, dance and acting alive, participating actively in social events. He fondly recalls the opportunity he received during those days to teach junior students algebra and received a decent amount as wages, which he used to fund a part of his education.

Sawlani’s father was among the pioneers of the Indian community in the UAE and he started Regal Traders in 1951. In fact, Sawlani visited Dubai for the first time in 1962 as a teenager and recalls, “Dubai, in those days consisted of the stretch extending from the creek on one end to Bank Street, Bur Dubai where the shops and buildings were located.” He also adds, “There were only around 40 cars in those days, and one belonged to us.”

“There were only around 40 cars in UAE those days, and one belonged to us.”



“Over the years Dubai has transformed incredibly and has grabbed the attention of the world,”



“Over the years Dubai has transformed incredibly and has grabbed the attention of the world,” says Sawlani.

His wife Ayesha received a western education having grown up in Mumbai and later Japan. She loves the enriching experiences provided by travel and looks at establishing a regular meditation practice as a way to manage life and her numerous responsibilities of work, philanthropic interests, social commitments and spending quality time with her grandson.

Their son Avinash says that he is ever grateful to his parents for the winning combination of great education and excellent practical work experience he has received from them.

In his words, “I have never had to look elsewhere for inspiration. My father has always inspired me with the

way he has developed his projects in Dubai as well as the single-family homes and mansions in California, USA, where I grew up.”

“He has given me hands-on learning about the business and has helped achieve my vision of a themed hotel,” says Avinash. “In our last hotel project, the rooms were based on five cities around the world.”

Avinash and his wife Meher who looks forward to bring innovative concepts into the Hospitality industry and believes in constant learning and reinventing to stay ahead in an ever-evolving business environment.

He recognizes the rapid changes in the competitive market of Dubai and looks at developments such as Expo 2020 as “having a multiplier effect on the economy of the country and the region in general.”





SOARING SUCCESS

Rooted in HUMILITY

TAHER ALI, Founder & Managing Director Global Transformers FZCO,
Europoxy FZCO & Al Zarooni Electromechanical.

“Only education will lead towards light.”



From a small village in Maharashtra, India to the city of dazzling skyscrapers, Dubai, Syed Taher Ali's story is a hugely awe- inspiring journey.



“Do what you like and enjoy what you do.”

His mother, who was considered a learned person among the villagers, always encouraged him to persevere towards big goals. Taher Ali recalls that her favorite saying translated into “only education will lead towards light.” And it was her constant encouragement that urged him to rise above tough financial circumstances and eventually lead him towards entrepreneurship, disregarding the fact that his inherent family occupation is farming.

After completing mechanical engineering from

Nagpur University in India, he began his career with Voltas Limited, one of India’s leading multinationals. After five years however, he left the company to start his business, with hardly any investment fund but a plan to return to employment if needed. However there was no need for this since his confidence and fortunes soon soared with his venture manufacturing electrical equipments, humidifiers and control panels.

Arriving in Dubai in the early 2000’s, he soon pursued his passion for design by setting up Global

Transformers, for the manufacturing and distribution of transformers. The company attained fame within a short span of time with its state-of-the-art technology and compact design and is considered the best among the manufacturers of transformers in the GCC region.

Further, Taher Ali diversified in the power distribution sector in the UAE by starting an MEP contracting company which successfully completed many prestigious projects. He has now expanded his factories in India, China and the UAE.





What keeps Taher Ali going is the love and support of his wife, Shaheen and his three children. There is also the group of wonderful friends in the ICONS group who also offer constant companionship. Not just his achievements, his humility and philanthropic deeds also speak a ton about this entrepreneur. Taher Ali summarises his message to the next generation beautifully – “Do what you like and enjoy what you do.”

His children are convinced that they have to look no further for inspiration than their father’s journey of reaching the pinnacles of success from humble beginnings.

His son Akram, a graduation Mechanical Engineer & Masters in business from City University London, considers his parents a great role model too. He aspires to continue growing the business and to use his interest in technology to take the business towards new heights.

He hopes that the “Expo 2020 will showcase to the world the commendable work in every sector, happening in Dubai.”

“There is always something new to learn from him in the way he conducts his business or his day – to day activities,” says his daughter Ayesha who also support her father in business after graduating in

Electromechanical engineering and Masters in Computer Science from UCL London. She looks forward to the excitement of new avenues for the business, such as solar renewable energy, who enjoys reading across various genres.

She admits to have received the best balance from her parents, as she says, “I have learned to be strong and resilient from my father and to be very loving and caring from my mother.”

Her younger brother Ammar is very loving boy and a bright student in High school who is clear in his thoughts also a sports enthusiast.

“Expo 2020 will showcase to the world the commendable work in every sector, happening in Dubai.”



“There is always something new to learn from him in the way he conducts his business or his day – to day activities,”



HEALTHCARE CHANGES *with a style*

TAHER SHAMS, Managing Director Zulekha Healthcare Group



Starting his career with the Zulekha Healthcare Group, Taher Shams has been playing a pivotal role for over 25 years, bringing in technological innovations as well as exceptional marketing expertise and judicious financial planning to contribute to

its exemplary growth. “I had very good learning experiences through this journey and have worked on exciting projects of our group including the establishment of the Alexis Multispecialty hospital in India,” Shams reflects.



“It is heartening to see the skilled professional expertise that is hired from India across industries,”

Undoubtedly, the opportunities provided by the UAE have been a significant factor in the progress enjoyed by the group. “It is heartening to see the skilled professional expertise that is hired from India across industries,” says Shams.

He believes in an approach of paying close attention to detail, constantly engaging with his team and staying connected to developments around the world.

“A leader empowers his people and stands with them in realizing their dreams,” he firmly believes.

Both Shams and his wife Zanubia do not need to look

too far for inspiration. Her mother, Dr. Zulekha Daud has been an excellent role-model through her unmatched commitment and the respect she commands.





Zanubia, who has completed post-graduation from the Southern New Hampshire University, USA, also depends on the support and companionship of her elder brother, an Oncology professor of medicine in the University of California.

As a family, they stay closely connected at work and apportion their time well between spending quality moments with the children and meeting social commitments.

Zanubia says, “My bonding is very strong with my children as they mean the world to us. We ensure we advise them as parents and also give them their space to be able to use their minds when needed.”

These feelings are reciprocated by the children and they admit that their parents have been the

guiding force in their lives, imbibing the best human values in them. In fact, they believe in looking at challenges as opportunities and adhere to the philosophy of “Expect the Unexpected.”

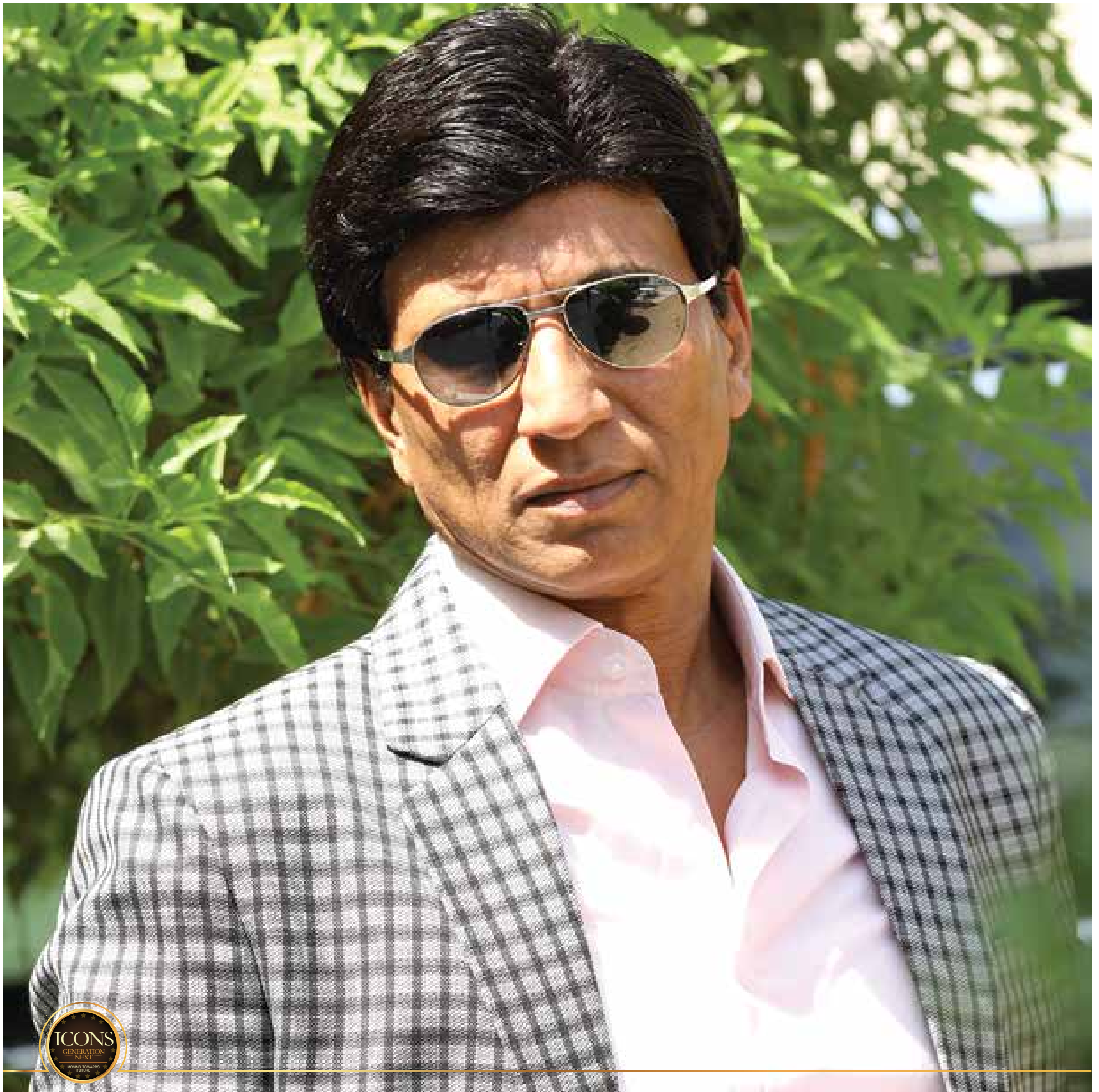
Aamir and Aamna Shams love to go for long desert drives and also look forward to watch the sunrise in the early morning hours.

They have certainly prepared themselves to face the demands of the professional world.

As Shams says, “The next generation will need to operate at a very high frequency, much higher than we do, in order to achieve their dreams.”

The pace at which the world is changing is astonishing and one must keep up with knowledge and skills upgraded constantly.





TOWERING SUCCESS

TAUSEEF HAYAT KHAN Chairman - City Tower Real Estate LLC

“It’s us, who has to chase our dreams”



The man behind the astounding growth of City Tower Real Estate, Tauseef Khan, has established a firm foothold for the business, helping it emerge victorious through turbulent times in the real estate market scenario. It is one of the leading real estate service providers of the UAE, enjoying a strong presence over the last two decades.

Tauseef Khan is armed with an Engineering degree from the famed Aligarh Muslim University in India. While completely involved with the continued growth and diversification of his business, he has not allowed himself to lose sight of his cherished dream of wanting to become a pilot.

“The UAE is the best example for the world to learn about how people of diverse backgrounds imbibe and learn from one another.”

Since its inception in the early 1990s, City Tower Real estate has enjoyed a reputation of trust and quality among the clientele spread across the UAE. His words, “The journey has been a difficult one,” refer to the struggles of his initial days in the UAE when he began his career in a construction company.

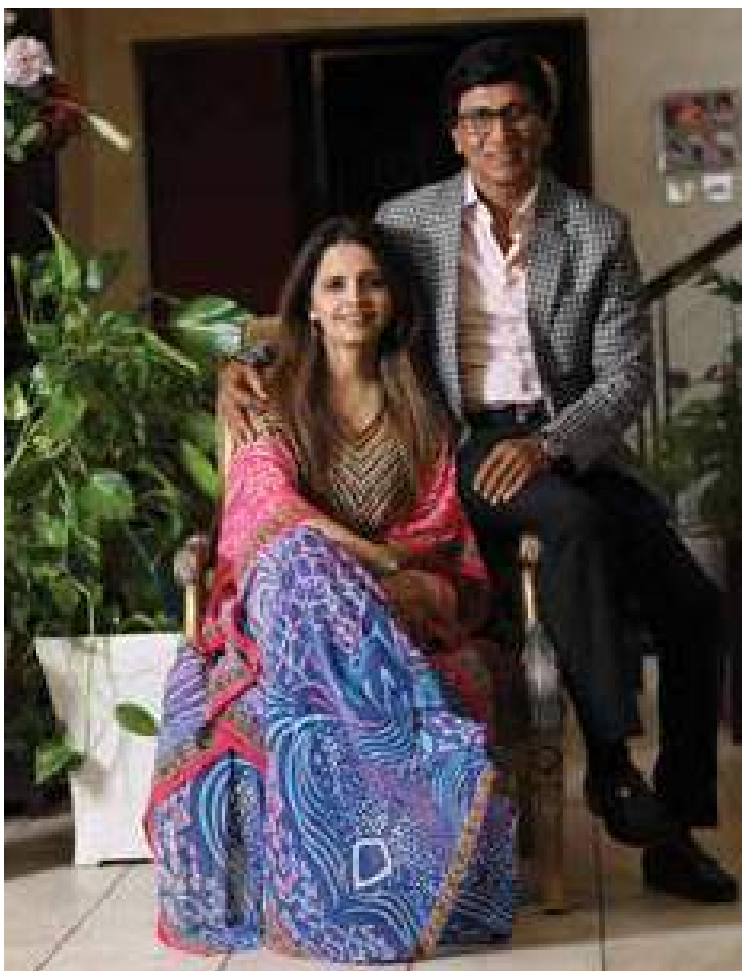
Khan remains grateful for the opportunities provided by the UAE and is all praise for the uniqueness of the country in celebrating multiculturalism.

He adds, “Indians in the UAE have garnered immense prosperity and gained trust across the country and this is due to the undivided support of the UAE government.”

He says with conviction, “The UAE is the best example for the world to learn about how people of diverse backgrounds imbibe and learn from one another.” This also his dream for his home country, India, where he wishes everyone is able to live together in harmony and respect.

It is a winning combination indeed when the passion of entrepreneurship mixes with the qualities of kindness, humility and dedication, and this is exactly what Khan embodies as he shares the favorite quote of his mother, “A tree which is laden with fruits is always stooping down to give, but a tree with no fruits just keeps standing erect.”

This comprises the essence of his message for the next generation of Icons is to “Always set an example in kindness, humility and provide support to those in need.”





*“Always set an example in kindness, humility
and provide support to those in need.”*

Khan enjoys spending time with his family during his free time and also loves to play golf. His wife Sehba Khan was also born in Aligarh and has completed post graduation in Plant Pathology from Aligarh Muslim University.

Her life revolves around their three children – Azaan, Eifaad and Amanah and she is a completely hands – on parent and admits to learning a lot from them.

She also keeps busy with her involvement in the huge social circle that the Khans have build during a stay of two decades in the UAE.

Azaan, Eifaad and Amanah Khan draw great inspiration from their father’s work and they hope to continue to multiply the success he has created. Azaan says, “I really cherish our journey in the UAE, how they grew as a family and have remained close to our roots.”The children enjoy water sports and dune bashing.

Azaan says,”I am sure the Expo 2020 will prove a huge success for Dubai” and Eifaad adds, “It will really serve as a great platform for the world to see what Dubai has accomplished.”The siblings enjoy a great relationship and look forward to creating their own path of excellence to make their parents proud.

