

ICONS OF MAHARASHTRA

महाराष्ट्र

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



BY
VIKAS BHARGAVA



This First Edition of the “Icons of Maharashtra in UAE”
Showcasing the Achievement and success stories of Maharashtraians from all walk of life.

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Pic Courtesy: Shivam Mistry

माणसं का नाही फुलवत मळे आणि बागा आपल्या घरात...
संस्कारांच्या कसदार मातीवर साधी साधी मूल्यं कशी तरासून येतील...
अधून मधून होऊन जावी एखादी वाक्यादा मैफिरु...
हसण्यांच्या लंकेरींची, गण्यांच्या बिलंबित ख्वालांची...
दिल्या घेतल्या टाळ्यांच्या तालांची...
आठवणींची गाणी निघावीत एखादी सुरकुतलेल्या कंठातून...
स्माधानाची मंदु आलापी दरवळत राहावी घरभर कॉफीच्या अरोमासारखी...
आपण साज्यांनीच असं करूया का
की अधून मधून सारे दिवे बंद करून तेवत ठेवूया एक समई घरात...
पिवळसर हलत्या प्रकाशात दिसेल मिंतीचा नवा रंग...सौख्याचा...

अखिनी शेडे





रामदास आठवले
RAMDAS ATHAWALE



सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता राज्य मंत्री
भारत सरकार

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



It gives me immense pleasure to know that UAE based "DCOM Design Co. FZE is bringing out its yet another edition of Coffee Table Book "Icons of Maharashtra in UAE" led by Shri Vikas Bhargava.

Maharashtra people especially those who are engaged in business and other professions in abroad, they are the brand ambassador of our country and culture. They have always worked for the land, where they have resided with the spirit of fully commitment, dedication and integration.

It is heartening to know that DCOM Designs after the successful launch of last many books, now bringing this book on Maharashtra. I am sure this will promote and grace the aura of Maharashtra community not only in UAE but all over the globe.

I Convey my heartiest congratulations to Shri Vikas Bhargava for the preparation of excellent Coffee Table Book and to all those, who are associated with this Coffee Table Book i.e. "Icons of Maharashtra". I also to see more in the years to come.

I wish for the success in their future endeavours.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, followed by the date '23/2021' and the name '(Ramdas Athawale)' in parentheses.

भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
दुबई

القنصلية العامة الهندية
دبي

CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
DUBAI

January 19, 2021



MESSAGE

I am very delighted to note that DCOM Designs is bringing out its Coffee Table book called "Icons of Maharashtra in UAE" to bring prominent members of diaspora from Maharashtra, in UAE, on a single platform.

The achievements of these icons will be a source of great inspiration and motivation for the young generations. I am sure that this compilation will be of immense benefit to all Indian community members and our Emirati friends.

I wish all the success to the entire team of the DCOM for their future endeavors, and hope that the organisation will achieve new heights in connecting the diaspora and promote Maharashtra cultural heritage.



(Dr. Aman Puri)



Date: 20-01-2021



LETTER OF BEST WISHES

The United Arab Emirates is celebrating 2021 as the Year of success after last year pandemic. Now the Govt of UAE is to highlight UAE's history of coexistence where over 200 nationalities have been happily living with each other for decades. Indians make up for the number one nationality by numbers among all the expatriates living in the UAE. It all started with the advent of people from Maharashtra, a Southern state of India, which too has a rich culture and history of harmony.

I am happy to know that the endeavours of this enterprising business community are being acknowledged in the book, 'Icons of Maharashtra.' No doubt, Maharashtra these Icons would have received praise and accolades for their efforts in the past too but it is a special gesture to honour such great achievers in this way that too for the first time in UAE. I am sure that this book will spread the exploits of Maharashtra people not only in the UAE but across the world.

DCOM Designs FZE's team led by Vikas Bhargava is bringing this book on the people of Rajasthan after the highly successful launch of many such books in past.

I wish them all the best in their endeavor.



Awad Mohammad Bin Shaikha Mujren
Director General of Emirates Travelers Festival



18-01-2021



Message of Congratulations

GMBF Global is happy to see that UAE based "DCOM Design Co. FZE is bringing out its yet another edition but first Coffee Table Book on Maharashtra titled "Icons of Maharashtra in UAE" by the team led by Vikas Bhargava.

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

It is heartening to know that DCOM Designs after the successful launch of many books, now bringing this first book on Maharashtra in UAE. I'm sure this will promote and grace the aura of Maharashtra community not only in UAE but also around the globe.

I Convey my heartiest good wishes to all those who are associated with this Coffee Table Book "Icons of Maharashtra". I wish to see more in the years to come

I wish all best in their endeavor

Dr. Sunil Manjarekar

President

GMBF Global



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Dr. Ram Buxani, Ph.D, D.Litt
Chairman

MESSAGE



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

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

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

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

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

R. J. Buxani
Dr. Ram Buxani

RJB/jm

MESSAGE

I am very pleased to learn from Vikas Bhargava of DCOM Designs that he has launched a book on Maharashtra community called "Icons of Maharashtra in UAE". This is a great initiative by Vikas to bring together the stars of our great community from Maharashtra who have contributed so enormously not only to the economy of UAE but also been front runners of the society back in India. These Icons of Maharashtra in UAE have been great achievers economically and have contributed richly to the society in general, thus lifting the image and profile of our great country, India.

Vikas Bhargava has been a pioneer in bringing out such other books which are very creatively designed. I am sure the "Icons of Maharashtra in UAE" will be a unique book celebrating the achievements of those included in the book. This is a brilliant effort to appreciate those achievers and encourage the Next-Gen to keep working smartly and innovatively to enrich not only their community but also the blessed country of UAE.

I wish Vikas a huge success in his future endeavors.

Paras Shahdadpuri
Chairman
Nikai Group of Companies

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I'm sure this will promote and grace the aura of Maharashtra community not only in UAE but also around the globe.

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

Yours Sincerely,



Bikram Vohra

Editorial Consultant

August 1, 2019

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

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

Initially seemed like a daunting task, on top of it the pandemic created another havoc - it got delayed for 10 long months. But then I want to thank all the members in this journey, who not only stood by me also encouraged me to continue the work on this Coffee Table Book, they constantly were guiding me through to make this book a memorable one as each had a great source of content. Rest I'm sure the details of the book will explain.

On a personal note - many of the Maharashtrians are so different and motivating that I would like to have yet another "session of chai" with them. I also would like to thank Vinit Rawat ji, Ira ji and Teena Bhargava.



Vikas Bhargava

Editor / Creative Director

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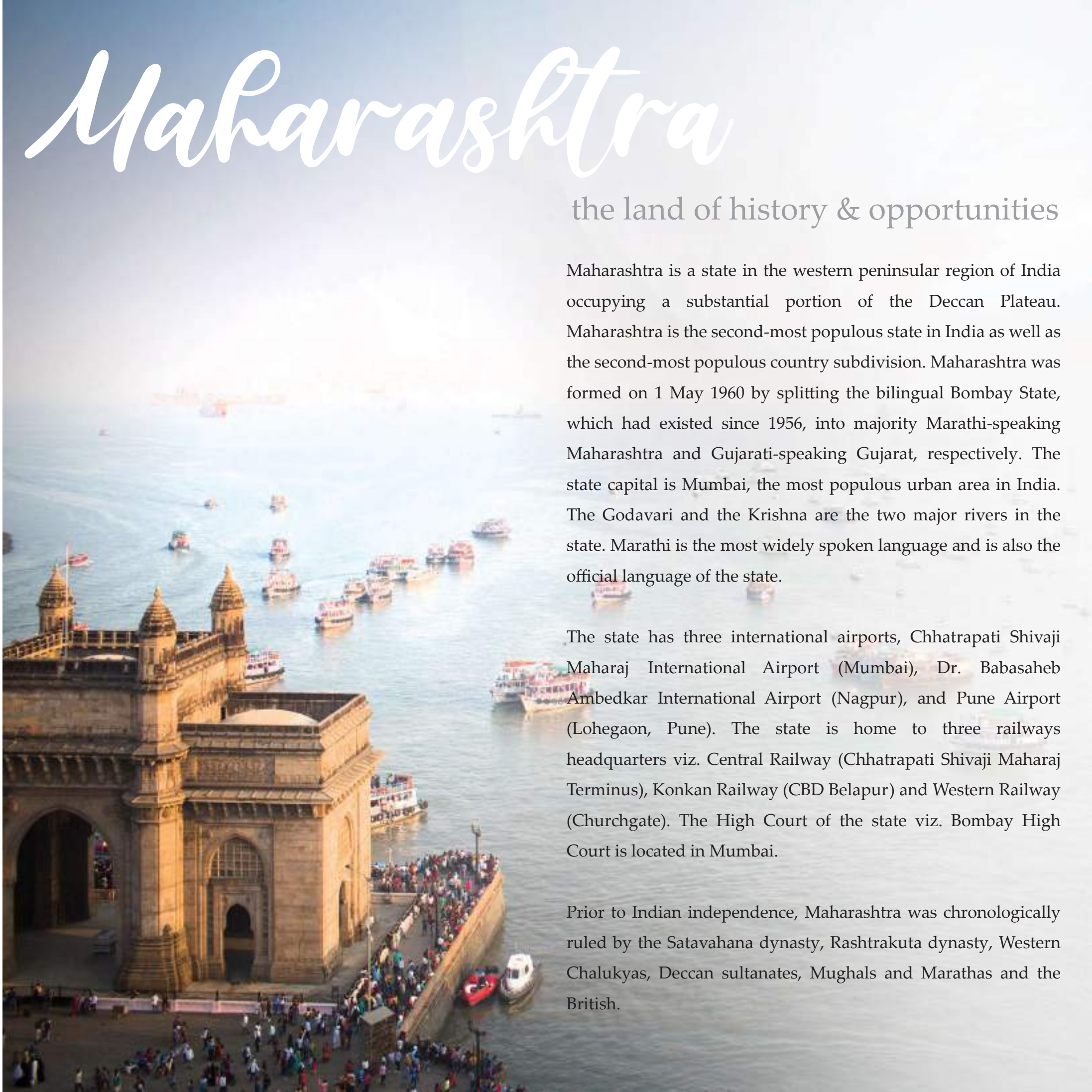
Maharashtra

the land of history & opportunities

Maharashtra is a state in the western peninsular region of India occupying a substantial portion of the Deccan Plateau. Maharashtra is the second-most populous state in India as well as the second-most populous country subdivision. Maharashtra was formed on 1 May 1960 by splitting the bilingual Bombay State, which had existed since 1956, into majority Marathi-speaking Maharashtra and Gujarati-speaking Gujarat, respectively. The state capital is Mumbai, the most populous urban area in India. The Godavari and the Krishna are the two major rivers in the state. Marathi is the most widely spoken language and is also the official language of the state.

The state has three international airports, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (Mumbai), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport (Nagpur), and Pune Airport (Lohegaon, Pune). The state is home to three railways headquarters viz. Central Railway (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus), Konkan Railway (CBD Belapur) and Western Railway (Churchgate). The High Court of the state viz. Bombay High Court is located in Mumbai.

Prior to Indian independence, Maharashtra was chronologically ruled by the Satavahana dynasty, Rashtrakuta dynasty, Western Chalukyas, Deccan sultanates, Mughals and Marathas and the British.





The state is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Ajanta and Ellora caves. Pune is known as the 'Oxford of the East' due to the presence of several well-known educational institutions. Maharashtra is the most industrialised state in India and the state's capital, Mumbai is India's financial and commercial hub. Maharashtra is one of the most developed and prosperous Indian states and continues to be the single largest contributor to the national economy.

Maharashtra occupies the western and central part of the country and has a long coastline stretching 720 kilometres along the Arabian Sea.[58] One of the more prominent physical features of Maharashtra is the Deccan plateau, which is separated from the Konkan coastline by 'Ghats'. Maharashtra is the third largest state by area in India.

Maharashtra has 36 districts, 355 talukas, 535 cities, 63,663 villages, 6 administrative divisions.

Maharashtra has a tropical climate, with three distinct seasons: Summer (March–May), Monsoon (June–September) and winter (October–February). However, dew and hail also occur sometimes, depending upon the seasonal weather.

The national parks of Maharashtra possess a variety of plant species that include jamun, palash, shisam, neem, teak, dhawada, kalam, ain, bija, shirish, mango, acacia, awala, kadamba, moha, hedu and ficus

Maharashtra consists of six administrative divisions -
Amravati / Aurangabad / Konkan / Nagpur / Nashik / Pune





The economy of Maharashtra is driven by manufacturing, international trade, Mass Media (television, motion pictures, video games, recorded music), aerospace, technology, petroleum, fashion, apparel, and tourism.

Maharashtra has an above average knowledge industry in India with the Pune Metropolitan area being the leading IT hub in the state. Approximately 25% of the top 500 companies in the IT sector are situated in Maharashtra. The state has a large, multi-modal transportation system with the largest road network in India.



Maharashtra has 24 universities with a turnout of 160,000 Graduates every year. Maharashtra has played a pioneering role in the development of the modern education system in India. The University of Mumbai, is the largest university in the world in terms of the number of graduates and has 141 affiliated colleges. Maharashtra is also home to such notable autonomous institutes as Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Institute of Chemical Technology, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Walchand College of Engineering, Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT) and Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI), Sardar Patel College of Engineering



Maharashtra cuisine covers a range from mild to very spicy dishes. Wheat, rice, jowar, bajri, vegetables, lentils and fruit form staple food of the Maharashtrian diet. Some of the popular traditional dishes include puran poli, ukdiche modak, Thalipeeth, batata wada. Misal Pav, Pav Bhaji and Vada pav are dishes that became very popular in the last fifty years.

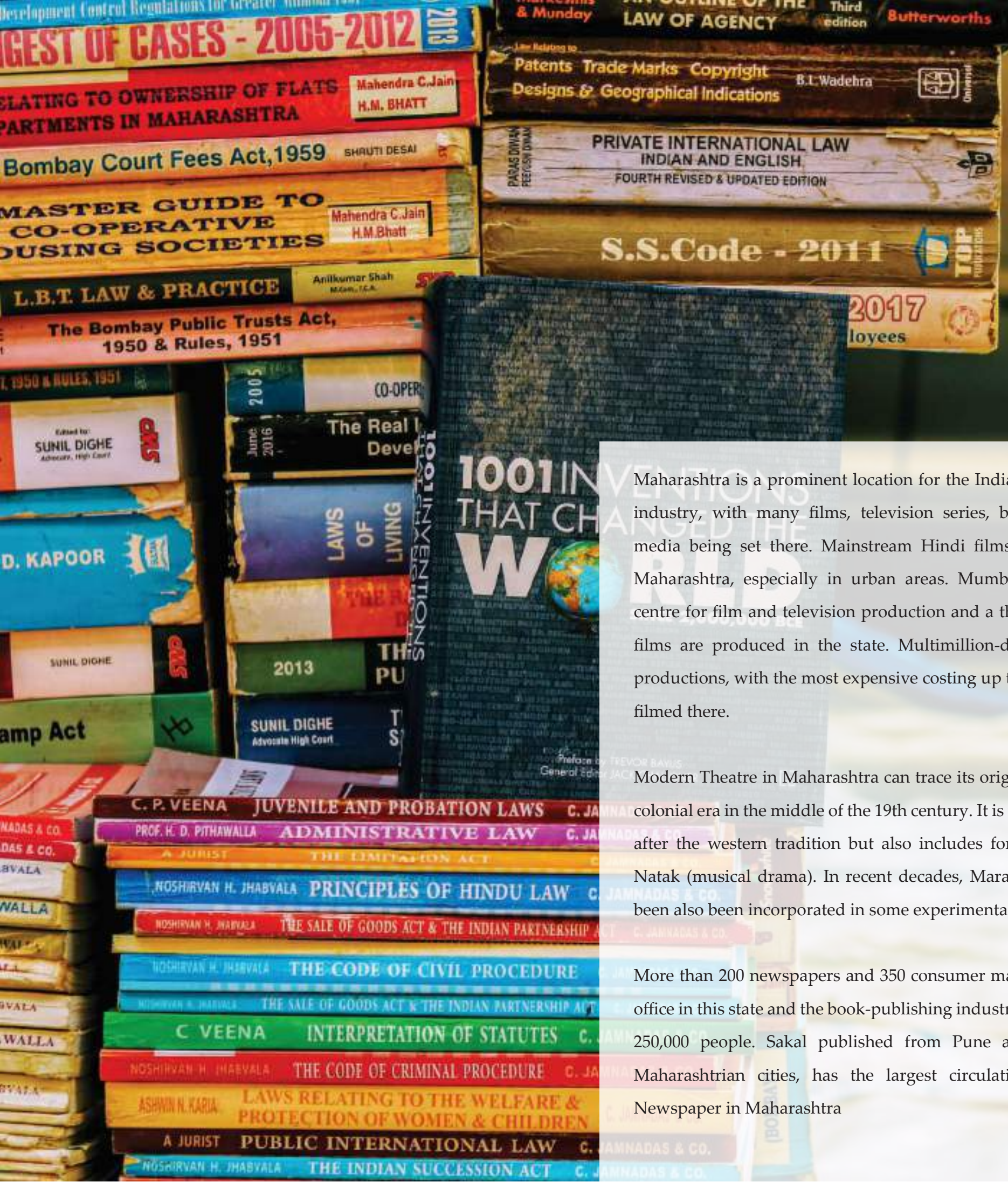


Traditionally, Marathi women commonly wore the sari, often distinctly designed according to local cultural customs. Most middle aged and young women in urban Maharashtra dress in western outfits such as skirts and trousers or shalwar kameez with the traditionally nauvari or nine-yard lugade, Men also wear traditional costumes such as the dhoti, and pheta. The Gandhi cap is the popular headgear among older men in rural Maharashtra.

Maharashtrian artists have made major contributions to Indian Classical music. Its vibrant folk form includes Powada, Bharuds and Gondhals. Marathi dance forms draw from folk traditions. Lavani is popular form of dance in the state.

Maharashtra's regional literature is about lives and circumstances of Marathi people in specific parts of the state. The Marathi language, which boasts a rich literary heritage, is written in the Devanagari script.





Maharashtra is a prominent location for the Indian entertainment industry, with many films, television series, books, and other media being set there. Mainstream Hindi films are popular in Maharashtra, especially in urban areas. Mumbai is the largest centre for film and television production and a third of all Indian films are produced in the state. Multimillion-dollar Bollywood productions, with the most expensive costing up to ₹1.5 billion are filmed there.

Modern Theatre in Maharashtra can trace its origins to the British colonial era in the middle of the 19th century. It is modelled mainly after the western tradition but also includes forms like Sangeet Natak (musical drama). In recent decades, Marathi Tamasha has been also been incorporated in some experimental plays.

More than 200 newspapers and 350 consumer magazines have an office in this state and the book-publishing industry employs about 250,000 people. Sakal published from Pune and other major Maharashtrian cities, has the largest circulation for Marathi Newspaper in Maharashtra

According to a survey, most tourists visiting places in Maharashtra are from the state. Two other states, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh send the largest number of domestic visitors to Maharashtra. Foreign visitors to Maharashtra account for just 2% of the tourist. Visitors from the US, UK, Germany, and UAE each form a significant percentage of foreign tourists.

Mumbai, the biggest and the most cosmopolitan city in India attracts tourists from all over the world for its many attractions including colonial architecture, beaches, movie industry, shopping, and an active nightlife. Pune, called the cultural capital of Maharashtra, also attracts many visitors during the annual Ganeshotsav festival.

The area around Aurangabad has many ancient and medieval sites including the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Ajanta and Ellora caves, the Daulatabad Fort, and the Bibi Ka Maqbara in Aurangabad. Places of worship that attract pilgrims from other parts of India and beyond include the Sikh Gurudwara of Hazur Sahib at Nanded, Khandoba temple at Jejuri in Pune district where worshipers shower each other with Bhandar and the shrine of Saibaba at Shirdi.

The places associated with the Warkari sect such as Pandharpur, Dehu and Alandi attract pilgrims from all over Maharashtra throughout the year.





Dare_{to} Win

AGNELORAJESH ATHAIDE, Chairman of St. Angelo's VNCT Ventures



"A man who has nothing to lose can be the most daring man in the world," says Agnelorajesh who has lived his entire life with this same thought in mind.

He has achieved unprecedented success and his story is that of a motivated young boy who wanted to write his own fate. He believes in his mother's statement "

either a situation will control you or you will control the situation. You choose. "

Born in Vasai and brought up in Mumbai, Agnelorajesh went through an early life trauma of seeing his mother sell all her jewelry to pay the rent. According to him, this incident alone framed his hunger for success.

"First Generation Self-made Serial and Social Entrepreneur, Angel Investor, Educationist and Motivational speaker. His goal is to develop real estate properties and get affordable luxury housing to the reach of the common man."



He strived to be economically independent from an early age. At the age of 13, he used to work in a Bindi (holy dot) factory and continued his hustle throughout his schooling. “In 11th, I used to give tuitions to students in lower classes and post 12th he worked as a door to door salesman selling clothes , cosmetics , perfumes etc ,” he added.

However, staying hungry for more, Agnelorajesh decided that computer education alone would not give him the growth he wanted. So, he ventured into the world of real estate development; “I got into real estate in 2006, and we started developing properties in joint ventures, and small shareholdings.”

to market and sell his Indian projects in Dubai by the Dubai’s Real Estate Regulatory Agency. “I give a lot of credit to the UAE and the entire middle east. They were responsible for the financial prosperity of a large section of Indians, who in turn helped develop the entire region,” commented Agnelorajesh .

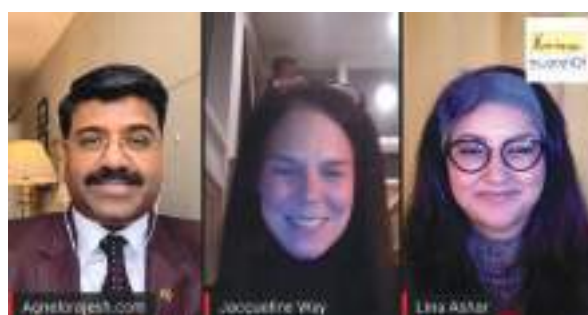
Following up with his strong work ethic, Agnelorajesh ventured into computer education in 1993. In 2006, he realized that computers would be India’s future and sector to fame . He started training personnel from the Mumbai Police, Western Railways, Indian ,Navy Mumbai Traffic Police, and other government departments also. Past this, he started franchising, which made him the largest computer education company across Mumbai, Thane, Navi-Mumbai, Nasik, and Pune. Computer education gave Agnelorajesh the professional and social outreach he needed.

In 2013-14, Agnelo came to the UAE. “I had a dream since my schooling days that when I complete my college, I will get a job in Dubai as an accountant,” he explained. After arriving in Dubai, Agnelorajesh took up where he left off in India and dived right into the real estate business.

According to him, both India and the UAE were destined to prosper together.

He initially worked via a rental office in Dubai, but by 2016 he had bought his own office in Business Bay Area . Through his business in Dubai, Agnelorajesh started marketing his projects in India to Indians working in Dubai. He was the first Indian developer who got approved





Despite his soaring success, Agnelorajesh remains a humble man. “Life has been very kind to me, and my economically challenging background is the motivation behind whatever I have achieved in life,” he added.

Currently looking at the current epidemic scenario Agnelorajesh and his team are constantly supporting community with his successful online talk shows “Moonshot Conversations and Current Scenario Live Conversations” He says that he got his confidence from his parents, who put his education before their needs. Same he is keen to pass on his next generation.

His wife - Sugra Dange Athaide has been his total backend support. As a parting thought, Agnelorajesh added that one should always be open to explore the unknown. “Whichever business I do, I try to create my own format in that sector and become a game changer. “

Today he has ventured into e-commerce for Fashion Garments , fashion jewellery, Food and Home Decor. He is now keen to bring the best artisans of the sector to the marketplace and empower their growth.

For Agnelorajesh , life is a wonderful journey predestined with people who connect with him. He strongly believes in Manifestation and Law of Attraction.







Building *the legacy*

ASHOK KORGAONKAR, Founder & Managing Partner of Archgroup Consultants

*“Honesty, sincerity, appreciating people, and straightforward thinking,
are some values of great importance”*



The key to success is to focus on goals and not obstacles. That's precisely what Ashok Korgaonkar, Managing Partner of Archgroup Consultants did over 45 years ago when he failed initially in securing admission to the Architecture Degree Course and prior to that he did his

schooling from King George High school, Dadar, Mumbai. His never give up attitude and his perseverance, helped him secure admission in Academy of Architecture next year (1975) even though he had very little support from his family.



Right from working for seniors in college to freelancing for clients, Ashok did everything that helped him fuel his passion.

He may have been influenced by the boy living next door to pursue Architecture but it's his sheer determination, hard work, and ideas that led him to complete many mid-sized and large-scale multidiscipline projects in the UAE.

It was immediately after graduation that he and his wife Arti who was born brought up in Mumbai, studied in St. Columba School, Girgaum, they met in Academy of

Architecture, after marriage they moved to the Gulf in 1981.

Ashok took up a job at Al Wasl Al Jadeed Consultants which set the foundation for his illustrious architectural career. He worked with them for over a decade and it helped him evolve personally and professionally.

Right from learning how to be an efficient leader to covering different aspects of work, Ashok learned it all. For him, work has always been work, and it's his sheer diligence and focus that has always been a guiding force in every project he has worked on.

Timeless designs, innovation, confidence, and the willingness to keep learning has helped him bag renown projects like Al Aqah Beach Resort, Emirate Airline headquarters, JW Marriott Marquis Dubai, Grosvenor House, etc.

His 3 step corporate mantra that includes, working hard and being a good leader, using your expertise, and being honest to your work has helped him come a long way.

Honesty, sincerity, appreciating people, and straightforward thinking, are some values of great importance to him.

“work has always been work, and it's his sheer diligence and focus that has always been a guiding force”





He believes matches are made in heaven and so were his and his wife Arti's. Having met in college and deciding to tie the knot right after graduation and moving to the gulf right after, are a few things, he believes were destined to happen. Having worked with a British firm for close to 15 years, Arti had enough precision and experience to contribute to Archgroup. She has contributed to the interior work of many Archgroup's projects and designed complete landscaping of Al Aqua Meridien resort in Fujairah. Also her forte is financing and majorly looks after their personal investments. "She is very versatile, well-read and has many hobbies such as paintings, knitting, reading, etc.", says a proud husband Ashok.

He is a man-well known for his business acumen and his aspiration to do bigger things in life. He never holds back from sharing his experience with his colleagues and will always go the extra mile to complete a project successfully. Having completed over 90 million square feet of works distributed over 400 plus projects comprising of

commercial, residential projects, hotels, and malls across the UAE, India, Oman, Egypt, and Libya.

Ashok continues to lay his faith in being humble and simple. With his feet firmly rooted to the ground and always aiming for the stars, Ashok wants his twin kids to always realize the value of hard work. Their son Sanket holds a Ph.D. in economics and is a professor/researcher at the Virginia University, Charlottesville USA. Their Daughter Sayli holds a Master's degree in Architecture from Harvard University and is currently working in London.

With their kids and family in 3 different countries, both Ashok and Arti love traveling and have traveled the world extensively.

Despite being featured in the Guinness book of world records, he does his best to strike a balance between work and family.

In his free time, he likes playing golf and watching Hindi movies. He attributes his success to the support rendered by his wife Arti, his talented and professional team of engineers and architects, his customers, and Dubai.





Amazing Maharashtra



Beyond Living

GIRISH SHIRSALKAR- CEO and Principal Architect of Design Concepts

“Architecture encompasses much more than mere house designing. It transcends the borders of arts and technology; touches unknowingly every aspects of life. Architecture interacts with socio-economical, cultural changes and creates testaments on the time scale.”



Poet, philosopher and an architect Girish was born in India's culturally vibrant Mumbai metropolis of Maharashtra in 1949. He is amongst the elite few who have seen Dubai and the UAE flourish into the global hub it is today and feels blessed to be a part of this progress as an architect.

Sharing highlights of yesteryears Girish said that he was brought up in a household that emphasized academics. Growing up he was good at sports. “I was a table tennis champion in our community, school and college. Played in state level tournaments but later curtailed sports activities for studies.”



“ UAE is the land of Opportunity, it never stops it’s futuristic visions”



Girish completed his Bachelor of Architecture from most prestigious institution J.J.College of Architecture (Bombay University) and got a lifetime opportunity to work under most eminent Architect Charles Correa. “He is my Architectural Guru. His architectural philosophy inspired me and guided me later in my own Architectural Practice in Dubai.” said Girish.



He has many prestigious projects to his credit, such as Emirates Rugby 7 stadium, BMW showrooms, Danube chairman’s villa and more. He has earned respect as a good architect.

He said “My Dubai journey has been wonderful. This town like small city become vibrant iconic city in front of my eyes like a

metamorphosis of caterpillar into butterfly. I have completed 42 years here and still feels like I arrived yesterday.”

Girish admired the role played by Indian community in Dubai/UAE. Along with his busy work schedule he was involved socially also. Maharashtra Mandal Dubai had a wonderful year (1991-1992) under his presidency when there were pioneering cultural programs held.

Having keen interest in Indian classical music he was one of the founder members to establish an organization called ‘ SurHindol ‘ in ‘92. Later he was president of SurHindol for many years. SurHindol has brought almost all renowned Artists to perform in Dubai. In India, artists consider it an honor to perform for SurHindol.



Many artist's second concert (baithak) were hosted at Girish's villa. He humbly admits this was all possible due to excellent support of his beloved better half Surekha. She on her own is an accomplished actress and has acted in many Hindi and Marathi plays with lead roles. Earlier before making it to Dubai she has performed in famous Prithvi theater in Mumbai.

Girish and Surekha are blessed with two wonderful children, their son Advay and their daughter Rucha. They have three grandchildren who all live in America, leaving the couple to stay in Dubai.

He says he has the soul of a poet. He has won intercollegiate poetry competition where the judge was well known poetess Smt. Shanta Shelke.

He likes exploring/traveling the world which he thinks broadens one's horizons. In his college days he traveled to Europe on a shoe string budget and worked on odd jobs to travel Holland and Germany. He says that it adds flavor to his designs.

Girish gives credit to UAE rulers for their able and prudent governance.

He says " A leader takes you with him on a journey.

He inspires and motivates and you are compelled to follow him willingly. Leader himself has to be a good example to follow." He quotes Bhagavatgita , where lord Krishna says ,general people are followers of great leaders and therefore they need to behave themselves in the first place.

This brings us to the main facet of Girish's personality. He deeply believes in Indian philosophy and practices the core values of it. He reveres his Adhyatmic Guru. He says Guru gives one vision of 'who am I 'and gives perception of "Unity in Diversity" and Beyond Living.







Success *is a journey*

MILIND DESHMUKH - CEO & Co Founder- SAM Building Contracting



Dream big, stay positive, work hard, and enjoy the journey. While Milind Deshmukh has enjoyed every bit of building his career, he knows it wouldn't have been possible without his perseverance and commitment. It is his father's discipline and excellence that inspired

him to achieve something beyond the obvious. Whether it was securing admission in Dnyan Prabodhini School Pune or pursuing his engineering and MBA degree, Milind has given all of it his best.



“Dream for your goal. You’ll surely achieve it”.

He has always looked up to his father who possessed international expertise in cooperative law. As a gold medalist in the LLB course, his father was even a lecturer, guide, thinker, and writer in the field of cooperative law and banking. Milind owes his intellect and ability to withstand challenges to his parents, who have always given him and his sibling the best of everything.

When it comes to his career, his journey has been nothing short of a rollercoaster ride. From

working for a few years in Pune to moving to Saudi and Bahrain to work and then returning back to Pune to pursue a full-time MBA degree, Milind has excelled at it all. Deciding to take a break from work despite being married, in order to continue his studies may have been a tough decision to take but he did what he felt was right.

As a youngster too, Milind has always been aspirational to achieve bigger, meaningful, and sustainable goals. From Oman to Vietnam and

then Abu Dhabi, Milind traveled places for work, yet his mind was set on something else.

As someone who has always been strategic and had great foresight, Milind found an opportunity in the pace of Dubai’s growth. The need for well structured, experienced, and knowledgeable construction companies was on the rise and it was during this demand, Milind found his calling. This led to the setting up of Sam Building and Contracting which provides turnkey construction solutions.



He has very high regards for Dubai and the rulers of the country overall and owes part of his success to how the government treats the expats in Dubai. Milind is very thankful for the constant guidance, motivation, support, and cooperation he has received from everyone.

He loves the fact that no one is distinguished based on their culture, nationality, or religion and everyone is presented with an equal opportunity to prove themselves. Whether it's his education or his career, he considers himself very fortunate and is overwhelmed with what he has received in life.

On being asked the secret to his success, he quickly states that as important as it is to create your own identity, one must also get people to accept that identity. It's important for everyone to accept us for who we are and we must be true to ourselves and our work at all times.

His parents, wife, and his kids have been his strongest pillars of strength. Kanchan, his wife, has always provided undivided and unconditional assistance to him and his daughters make him smile ear to ear.

He makes sure to focus on his health and fitness and truly enjoys listening to semi-classical and Bollywood music. Milind believes in attaining a balance between being a learner and a teacher because for him everyone has a role to play in this world. He has a dream that someday when his daughters pass through the steel bridges that have been built by his enterprise for the Dubai metro, they will be able to narrate proud stories of his work.

"Dream for your goal. You'll surely achieve it", he ends up with this message





In giving we receive

RAMESH DHAS, Principal Architect & Managing Partner -FA Baker Consultants LLC

“Hard work, perseverance, determination, and focus always leads you to success.”



For it is in giving that we receive and Ramesh Dhas who was born in Ahmednagar and grew up in Pune, always received in abundance. Amongst four siblings and hailing from a family of businessmen, Ramesh was the first among his clan to receive any kind of professional guidance or education.

He was beyond thrilled when he secured admission to the JJ College of Architecture, Mumbai which is still considered one of the best institutions in the country. Right from the beginning, Ramesh believed that hard work, perseverance, determination, and focus always leads you to success.



It didn't really matter to him that he was only in his initial years of college and he began encashing every possible opportunity. He would work through all his holidays and even began making enough money. Appreciation for his work was something that he would thrive on and it would motivate him to do better.

He was extremely happy and content with the life he had built for himself and hence was a little reluctant initially to move to Dubai. With the desire to return back home in a few months, little did Ramesh know that Dubai was to bring him laurels, he'd never imagined. In a short span of time, Ramesh's work was appreciated and applauded by all his clients.

He kept receiving more work and it led him to build some fantastic relationships with people.

He was liked and respected by all and it was this love and warmth that inspired him to start something of his own. Ramesh has always been excellent at his work and been able to create tremendous designs.

His work was a reflection of innovation and clarity. In the years that he has spent in the UAE, he has completed close to a thousand projects and intends to complete many more. He considers himself extremely fortunate to be living in a country that motivated and boosts the confidence of expats.

The experience he has had working for top-notch bureaucrats has been gratifying. He is of the opinion that Dubai is a great place for anyone who wants to start out on their own as they receive ample guidance and support from everyone around.

He considers himself extremely fortunate to be living in a country that motivated and boosts the confidence of expats.





As a leader, Ramesh believes in creating a positive impact on people's lives in every way possible. He truly believes that one can only rise by lifting others and leaves no stone unturned to do everything in his capacity to spread goodness in society.

When one is true to their values and culture,



one is sure to do well, believes Ramesh. Vrushali, his wife, who is also an architect, has constantly helped him lay down the stepping stones to his career.

When you do good, it comes back to you, which is a motto that he has always lived by. He encourages people to live in harmony and give respect to everyone. He and his wife have inculcated the same values in both their kids. In his free time, he enjoys gardening and finds his calm in feeding the many varieties of bird that visit his house. Age just a number for Ramesh Dhas and he continues to dedicate his heart and

*"When you do good,
it comes back to you in
some better form"*

soul to everything he does. Ramesh is a travelling freak, like his bird and gardening passion he loves to travel across the globe. Keep exploring the possibilities.

He always believes in giving back to society and needy one is a blessing - as you have been chosen to give.

Enjoying with grandchildren and keeping the roots intact with this fast moving world is part of his daily life. He advise all "keep your eyes open and continue the hard work"





Changing the rules

RANJEET CHAVAN, Co-Founder & CEO at SPF Realty

*“Never think that all storms come to disrupt your life,
to destabilise your life, some come to clear your path too...”*



“If somebody has a dream, then the best course of action is to chase that dream.” This is the philosophy Ranjeet Chavan has followed his entire life. He is the CEO of a reputed Dubai-based agency, SPF Realty, and has years of international experience behind him. Ranjeet says that he entered the real estate business by sheer coincidence; however, he has grown to love the ever-changing industry.

Raised in Nasik, Ranjeet started his career working as a Junior Sales Executive at Rocky Real Estate at the age of 18. He gained a lot of experience in the five years working with his father’s friend. This was the period that shaped Ranjeet's professional outlook. Afterwards, he switched jobs and worked with big conglomerates where he established the networks he required to start his own venture.



In 2006, Ranjeet opened the doors to SPF Realty. His company's mission was simple; to accomplish exponential growth with an emphasis on customer satisfaction.

Ranjeet has since simplified his clients' decision-making process with and has promoted fair play and transparency within the industry.

Being a firm believer that one must take risks in life, Ranjeet adds that the Maharashtrian community does not believe in risk-taking and is much more comfortable with a good job.

"I am glad that I took the risk, and it could have gone either way. But when I look back, had I not taken the risk, I think I would be in regret right now," he explained.

"Thinking positively is not about expecting the best to happen every time, but accepting that whatever happens is the best for this moment."



In the world of real estate, Ranjeet says that a little bit of foresightedness goes a long way towards being ahead of the curve.

"In 2008, I had a feeling that the growth will not be as it has been for the last three years, so at the beginning of the year, I advised clients to exit portfolios and reduce exposure," said Ranjeet. It just so happened that in 2008, there was a global economic crash. Still, thanks to his early advice, many of Ranjeet's clients evaded the worst of the situation, and he cemented himself as a visionary of the industry.

"When I look back, 100% of my clients continued to do business with me. The ones who listened to me, and the ones who did not," he added.



On personal front Ranjeet and his family has a very close bonding, his wife Khushali, from Nagpur, shy and believe in cultural values has lot of praises for Ranjeet for constant support. Speaking to her daughter Arushi- she is

also very friendly with her parents and her brother Abhishek who is pursuing his studies and say “get a good degree to secure future.”



*“The real art of conversation is not only to say the right things at the right time,
But also to leave the wrong things unsaid at the most tempting moments.”*



Staying *true to oneself*

MANOJ AHEERAY, Startup Ecosystem Evangelist & Officio Director at Al Ahli Group



Manoj Aheeray is a modern-day corporate titan who did not give in to the tides of time and stayed true to himself to achieve unprecedented success. His belief is – Attitude is Denominator of Success and with that belief and focused approach he has always stayed ahead of the game.

Manoj has done schooling from vernacular medium. During his school days, Manoj had a very unique interaction with his teacher that helped him gain a sense of achievement and paved his path to success.

“She told me that I was going to achieve success in life as I did not care about appearances and had a very sound vision,” added Manoj. Just by observing him and his behavior pattern she had helped Manoj with the 1st milestone of self-discovery and self-belief by sharing 9 Balloon story with him. Sometimes a small pat on the back goes a long way, and Manoj’s experience with his teacher is certainly testimony for that. Today, he has toned up 25+ startups multifacetedly as Startup Eco-system Evangelist. He is also Officio Director of Al Ahli Group, UAE.

As a budding careerist, Manoj was always fascinated by the Mumbai. He knew that Mumbai was the place that would shape his life. After completing his CA, Manoj decided to ditch higher-paying jobs in hometown (comfort zone) and opted for one that allowed him to live in Mumbai. Later, his decision proved fruitful as he got to work in esteemed companies like IDBI VCF, Raymonds, and ACC Cement.

Despite the early success, Manoj was still aspiring for more; “During my ACC days, most of the evenings, I used to visit overseas placement agencies, just to understand the process. I used to appear for 10-12 interviews monthly.” His untethering passion later paid off, as, during his SAP certification in 2003, Manoj got four offers from countries like the USA, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and the UAE.

Looking at proximity to India and the job profile’s dynamic nature, Manoj opted for the job at RAK Ceramics in the UAE. He grew from budding Finance Professional to the Group CFO position, at RAK Ceramics.

Like many, Manoj believes that the Asian community has contributed to building pillars of the UAE economy. He also

believes the UAE has given equally, or more.; “I always say, I was born in India, however, UAE is my home from last 17+ years. This country has given me a chance during my young days to explore and prove myself to this world what I’m today and what I wanted to be.”

Manoj adds that the UAE is an evolving and dynamic country that adapts to change very swiftly, quickly, and smartly. Professionally, he believes that it was these constant changes that taught him how to adapt to anything; “UAE has made me in a real sense a person who can stand in any part of the world, in front of any individual in any dynamic circumstances and still prove my own point.”





“It’s very crucial to be positive in desperate situations. Your attitude determines the altitude of your life.”

As his magic mantra, Manoj comments that he is heavily influenced by 3 Renowned Personalities, for Strategic Acumen and Crisis Management – Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, for tactical thinking and Decision Making – Chanakya, and for Management Principles - Jack Welch.

He says that he follows four basic principles listed by Jack Welch: Being open to change, taking on real situations as they are, taking control of things before things control you, and if you don’t have competitive advantage, don’t

compete. Manoj certainly believes that attitude is the denominator of success for all successful people; “It’s very crucial to be positive in challenging situations. Your attitude determines the altitude of your life.”

Manoj’s father is ex Indian Airforce and Mother is Proficient Educationist. He has 3 siblings, 2 sisters and 1 brother. Both his sisters are Professors, and his brother is a Petrochemical Technocrat.

He has inculcated his value system from his

family which includes, discipline, care and openness to new challenges.

Manoj’s wife, Sujata, a Software Engineer from PICT, Pune & MBA from BITS, Pilani, who came from humble background. Sujata is actively involved in Art of Living activities.

They have two children daughter – 14-year-old Kaauragee (Means Warrior) and 7-year-old super cool son – Kaaunteya (Means Warrior again from Mahabharata).





Let's Appreciate *the Beauty of Imperfection*

DR. AMEYA GHANEKAR - Strategic Learning and Development Expert – Orange Zebras

‘Learning and Development is Certainly a Way of Life’.



“I believe, Everything Happens Twice – Once in Mind and Once in Reality. Once you make it happen in mind, making it a Reality is a Cakewalk,” shares Dr. Ameya Ghanekar, who is one of the most Influential Personalities in the

Learning & Organizational Development Domain in the UAE. With over 17 years of experience, he has worked on varied training and coaching projects and has trained over 15000+ participants from four continents.





He was also awarded the Global Training & Development Leadership Award from World Training & Development Congress for his continued efforts. He is the Founder and Chief Learning Officer of – Orange Zebras.

He is also TEDx Speaker, Social Experiment Specialist, Published Author, Strength Coach, and Belief System Enhancer. Coming from a small town of Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, Dr. Ameya's story is not just of a man who grew up in a small town and achieved great success, but also of a boy who wanted to find his potential and toiled away to reach the summit.

It's a given that as a trainer, one must possess

exceptional interpersonal skills. Dr. Ameya credits his father's job for framing his friendly personality.

"In 10 years, I had changed 6 schools, so making friends was a part of life," he explained. Following a positive outlook on life, he decided not to affect those frequent changes and improved his interpersonal skills to make as many friends as he could. He also understood the simple fact that to make new friends, he had to have a one-up approach; "I understood that if I have a Unique Selling Proposition, then it will be a lot easier to make friends and become part of their social fabric. So, I inclined towards being super good at studies as well at extracurricular activities."

He received the first opportunity to travel internationally when he was 19. He received a scholarship, he visited and stayed in France for couple of months and studied international hospitality management. Dr. Ameya started his journey in the world of teaching at the age of 21. Following his first teaching job, Dr. Ameya was headhunted by many esteemed corporate firms and universities.

His illustrious career saw him work in numerous fields as Learning and Organization Development Expert like hospitality (Luxury), retail, education, banking, healthcare, wellness, real estate, equine, manufacturing, entertainment, insurance, and fitness.



"My heart said, Giving and Taking are Not two sides of life.
Two sides of life are - Giving and Giving.
Right now, they are Giving and later you have to Give."

Dr. Ameya Ghanekar



“Believe in yourself - shortcuts will live only for short times, always aim high- you will surely get it”

Dr. Ameya is author of. ‘23½ Beds’ – Journey from Unknown to Unknown. This book emphasizes on the Magic of Trusting the Unknown which he experienced by staying with 23 Unknown Angels during his 83 days Travel Escapade in 6 countries.



Being a family man through and through, Dr. Ameya immensely respects and cherishes his

mother, who helped him become who he is; “She is behind everything I have and would have in the future. She gave up on her career because she wanted to bring us up.” He also adds that she is his inspiration, and he looks up to her. His Mother’s Name is Urmila Ghanekar, she is a Yoga Teacher, Published Author and Stress Management Guru.

Dr. Ameya’s Sister (Madhavi Abhyankar) is an Architect, and his brother-in-law (Dhananjay Abhyankar) is an Engineer. Dr. Ameya also has two nephews – Pranav and Rajas.

Dr. Ameya’s move to the UAE provided him with many fruitful avenues for personal and professional growth. “This country has given me a chance to explore and prove myself and has provided me International Platform to showcase my Skills. I owe

UAE a lot. Being the melting pot for cultures, I have learnt so much in last 8 years’, adds Dr. Ameya.

He is extremely determined to visit 195 countries and teach young kids the learnings like – ‘One doesn’t need money to Survive however one needs Interpersonal Skills and a Hobby to survive successfully; which he discovered during one of his social experiments – ‘#ttuswm’ – Trusting the Unknown Surviving without Money.

As his mantras for success, Dr. Ameya adds, “One needs to Understand and Appreciate the Power of Appreciating the Imperfections”. One needs to, “Trust the Unknown because Unknown is Enticing. Empowering and Amazing”. And if, “one can Keep Counting Their Blessings every day, success is Guaranteed.”





Education

beyond all boundaries

PRAMOD MAHAJAN, School Director / Principal at Sharjah Indian School. UAE



"I either wanted to be at the top or not at all, that all I teach also."

Coming from a family of educationists, Pramod Mahajan was always inclined in the art and science of learning and teaching. Following his passion, he has come up with numerous concepts and theories that have helped completely restructure the education sector in India and UAE.



After completing his post-graduation, Pramod worked in numerous schools and organizations. He worked in renowned government organizations like MHOW (Military Headquarters of War), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, the NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training), and more. For NCERT, Pramod worked as resource personnel and trained principals from numerous districts on project Vidya, one of India's first computer-based education projects. He also worked on the Podar Group of Schools, which was founded by Mahatma Gandhi.

At Podar, Pramod helped set up their first international school in Sharjah, UAE, called the Sharjah Indian School. With his induction, Pramod managed to revolutionize the school completely. In his leadership, the school won numerous awards like the prestigious Sheikh

Hamdan Award. Considering his ever-extending list of achievements, Pramod was selected as a member of the Board of Directors in Sharjah Private Education Authority, which operates directly under the vigilant eye of his highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi.

Adding another feather in his cap, Pramod was selected as a General Secretary of the Principal Council of Sharjah Private Education Authority, where he is trying his level best to enhance the academic standards of the Sharjah Emirates.

Striving for excellence is not new for Pramod. He was always at the top as a student throughout his schooling and later followed it up by being at the top of every organization he joined in his career. "I either wanted to be at the top or not at all," he added. Pramod also

explained that his move to UAE was a calculated one: "People in the UAE respect knowledge. The government also respects education and the educator."

बंभाड़ा के प्रमोद महाजन का लंदन में सम्मान



यूके पार्लियामेंट में सम्मानपत्रांतरित हुए प्रमोद महाजन । • नवदुनिया

जगद्गुरु बन्धुविद्यान्त

यूके पार्लियामेंट द्वारा आम केन्द्र के प्रमोद महाजन को सम्मानित किया। वह दिवस लंदन के चर्चिलहाउस, द हाउस ऑफ कॉमंस में अर्द्धरात्री यूके अर्बाई 2019 के तहत एड्युकेशन इंटरनैशनल और द ईयर अर्बाई से उन्हें सम्मानित

किया गया। प्रमोद महाजन वर्तमान में शारजाह इंडियन स्कूल दुबई में प्रचार के पद पर कार्यरत हैं। इस अवसर पर सरपंच शिरीष तायडे, एमके बोराडे, शांताराम चौधरी, प्रचार सुधीर महाजन, प्रचार्य सीत महाजन, एनडी महाजन, केबी चौधरी सहित ग्रामीणों ने हर्ष जताया है।



Being in the limelight has become second nature for Pramod, but he has not let go of his humility; “the biggest achievement for me is that I have made my parents proud,” he commented. Personal life is one department where Pramod says that he has struggled a bit, but shared that his wife has been with him through thick and

thin; “She has supported me regardless of whether I was right or wrong.”

Being a self-acclaimed workaholic, Pramod doesn’t want to stop working anytime soon. “If you want to be successful, enjoy and learn from your failures, cause only then can you learn how

you can be successful.” According to Pramod, this is the magic mantra that has kept him going through the years in his journey to becoming his best version.

On other hand Pramod is a true family person and very active in sports, cultural and social programs.





Sky is the limit

DR. SUNIL VINAYAK MANJAREKAR , CEO -SQC & GMBF - President

“Feel the pulse of time, It helps to success”.



Dr. Sunil Vinayak Manjarekar's journey is a real example of how sheer determination and hard work are all you need to excel at anything.

He was born to in an underprivileged household in a small

village in Maharashtra, but his humble beginnings did not waver him from his path to success.

“Even though we didn't have the money, we enjoyed what we had,” added Sunil.





He moved to Mumbai to complete his Bachelor of Science degree, and did so without having a competent grasp of Hindi or English. This alone might be too daunting for many of us, but Sunil persevered, and after his graduation, he got a job but didn't stop learning.

He even earned his doctorate while working a full-time job. "I used to work in the morning and went to college in the evening. I followed the same routine until I got my Ph.D.," explained Sunil. At the time, he was the youngest doctorate holder in the country for his particular field.

In 1998, Sunil got married and moved to Dubai to work at a cosmetic company as a quality assurance manager.

He initially planned to earn money and go back to India, but he too fell in love with the city like many "It was a very comfortable life.

I also joined the Dubai Quality Group, and Maharashtra Mandal. That is how I began connecting socially in Dubai," explained Sunil as he dwelled deeper into how he got the job within the Dubai Government.

Sunil elaborated that his new job expanded his professional outlook as he worked on varied projects ranging from construction of roads and even jobs that required mechanical engineering. "What I learn, what I studied, and what I did for the municipality was very different, but it was a good experience," commented Sunil.

" UAE is the land of Opportunity, it never stops it's futuristic visions"



The new job with the Dubai Municipality gave Sunil the exposure he needed. Following his strong work ethic, he joined multiple part-time jobs and even freelanced from time to time to better his financial situation.

Sunil’s story is not very different from millions of Asians who come to the UAE searching for greener pastures. “You name the sector, and our

people are there. Indian contribution is almost 70% of UAE’s GDP,” Sunil commented.

Coming to a different country and leaving your mark is a momentous achievement. Alongside his business ventures, Sunil has not overlooked his responsibility towards his community. Upon being asked about what keeps him going, he said: “Every day we get up and have a new challenge

to conquer. If you want to handle the community, then somebody has to work hard.” Sunil’s wife, Sneha, also believes in the same philosophy of continual hard work and giving back to the community.

She elaborated that people should not expect every deed to bear fruit and that sometimes selfless acts are the ones that truly make a difference.







Creating *a better tomorrow for all*

SHRUTI JAYANT GOKHALE, Dy Managing Director - Link Middle East



Don't live a life full of plans, sometimes the greatest moments happen unplanned and the greatest regrets occur from not reaching what is planned."

Sometimes we're tested not to show our weakness but to discover our strengths. When life put a series of tests before her, not only did Shruti Gokhale pass out with flying colors, she even became an inspiration for many. It is not often that you come across a woman who has made it big single-handedly in the world of industrial manufacturing. Without the props from others, here is an illustrious woman entrepreneur who has helped build one of the most powerful legacies in the engineering

sector of the region, Shruti Gokhale, a woman of steel. Having been born and raised in Pune, with the simple values that were bestowed upon her by her parents, and immense dedication, nothing was impossible for Shruti. Right from the time she was a young child, the importance of good education and hard work was embedded in her. She, along with her siblings, were encouraged to complete their education and at the same time were pushed to carve a niche for themselves.



Their father always taught them how to utilize their time effectively and efficiently. Whether it was doing basic cleaning chores in holidays or helping the senior citizens, they were made to realize that time is money and it needs to be well spent. Right from funding their own education to taking up some of the other work every holiday, to learning proper manners and assisting in the upliftment of the society like cleaning a small mountains of area. Shruti was very clear for her goal & strong-minded to achieve them, as we see in her later journey.

It was this zest and passion to perform that helped Shruti secure a job at the age of 20 at Greaves Cotton Company. With her degree in cost-accountancy, she began working as a

management trainee and also decided to pursue her Masters in Commerce. She was always appreciated for her work and earned huge respect from her colleagues and bosses. Shruti considers herself really lucky to have been married to a man who understood her quest for learning. He not only helped her complete her education but also encouraged her to be economically stable.

Soon an opportunity came for her husband and her to move to Muscat. Even though getting a chance to get to the Middle East was a huge opportunity for them, she says, a lot of relatives and friends displayed concern over this matter.

Decades ago, people were of the notion that while collar workers travel to western countries and

blue-collar workers travel to Middle East countries, says Shruti jokingly. Computers were a new thing then and her fascination for them made her learn computing skills very soon. She was always a go-getter and it is this attitude that helped her join late Mr. U.M Kini as financial controller in Civilco Electrical Mechanical Company.



Shruti has also started Electro Mechanical Company along with Mr. U.M. Kini in 1990 under CEMCL and today it is one of the top 3 recognized contracting companies in Dubai.



“We have to be thankful to bad things in life, they open our eyes to see good things in life, which we were not paying attention before.”



The Company which started with 15 people now has more than 2000 full time employees and is being managed by Mr. Kini's son Vidyuth Kini. She proudly says “our products are exported to over 75 countries around the globe”.

This was just the beginning of bigger things and soon she moved to London to set up a property company. Right from scouting properties to picking up a loan to set the office, she ensured everything was completed with precision.

She was always encouraged to take an active part in the business and it is through her boss that she learned how to manage everything with excellence. She passed on the same support and guidance to Mr. Kini's son after his untimely demise and helped him learn and progress in life. It was Shruti's visionary

approach that led her to set up well-performing businesses in Ras Al Khaimah. Life has not always been a bed of roses for them but she has always been optimistic.

She emphasizes the kindness of the visionary rulers of UAE who made policies and system so easy for business entities to grow rapidly.

Whether it was delivering and serving the demands of western countries or handling difficult legal matters, she has always handled everything calmly, cautiously, and with excellence. Her number one mantra has always been to conduct business ethically and has helped their business grow rapidly.

Other than being a successful entrepreneur, she is very religious and art lover. She take special interest in the interior and keeping all surrounding beautiful, not only for herself but for all.





Amazing Maharashtra



Flexibility *of work and life*

DR. BEENA WALAWALKAR



From being a little girl who just wanted to help a disabled girl, to managing a chain of clinics that help many in need, Dr. Beena Walawalkar is a true inspiration for those who believe in the power of dreaming big and achieving bigger.

Every one has that one turning point in their life which sets a path to their future. For Dr. Beena, that calling came when she was in the 4th standard. She remembers how there was one girl who stayed in the neighbourhood, was a case of cerebral palsy & was abused for her inability to

manage simple tasks. However, unlike many who ridiculed the girl, she decided to support her by helping her with daily chores. Dr. Beena continued to help her this way until the girl gained the confidence to take care of herself and do well. "I am glad I helped her. That was the main motivation for me to get into physio and rehabilitation practice. I am still in touch with her, and she is doing fairly well in life overcoming her disability" added Dr. Beena as she walked her through her journey towards treating special needs children.



Armed with a rich academic background, Dr. Beena is an alumnus of many esteemed medical institutes globally and has varied experience managing physiotherapy departments, and is practicing rehabilitation medicine in the international market for the last 15 years. She describes that her first job in the All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehab in Mumbai taught her a lot about taking care of disabled people and how to help her patients live a happy life mentally. After taking up a few other jobs in reputed Hospital and Healthcare institutes, Dr. Beena decided to take a leap of faith and opened her own healthcare clinics.

Shifting from Mumbai to the UAE, Dr. Beena describes that

humility and integrity are some of the core values that have shaped her personal and professional outlook throughout her life. “When I treat my patients, I focus on getting them better physically and mentally. I focus on helping them reevaluate their self-worth to do well in life,” she added.

Sanjiv Walawalkar, Dr. Beena’s husband, is no stranger to unprecedented success, just like his wife. He, too, believes in helping people in need and believes that good deeds always find a way back to reciprocate. Dr. Beena and Sanjiv are prime examples of how the Asian community has helped the UAE reach new heights worldwide. “The influence of the Asian community has moved this country ahead in almost every front,” commented Sanjiv.

“When I treat my patients, I focus on getting them better physically and mentally. I focus on helping them reevaluate their self-worth to do good in life,”



Being an avid learner, Dr. Beena comments that she never stopped learning and has embarked on many different routes in her life. She is a fashion and jewelry designer and also works as an image consultant. She even has her own clothing collection on which she works together with her daughter.

Dr. Beena further shared that she still has many things on her bucket list to strike off; "Society, in my opinion, only focuses on the young and

therefore I want to create a trust for old people for their recreation. I also want to pen my autobiography."

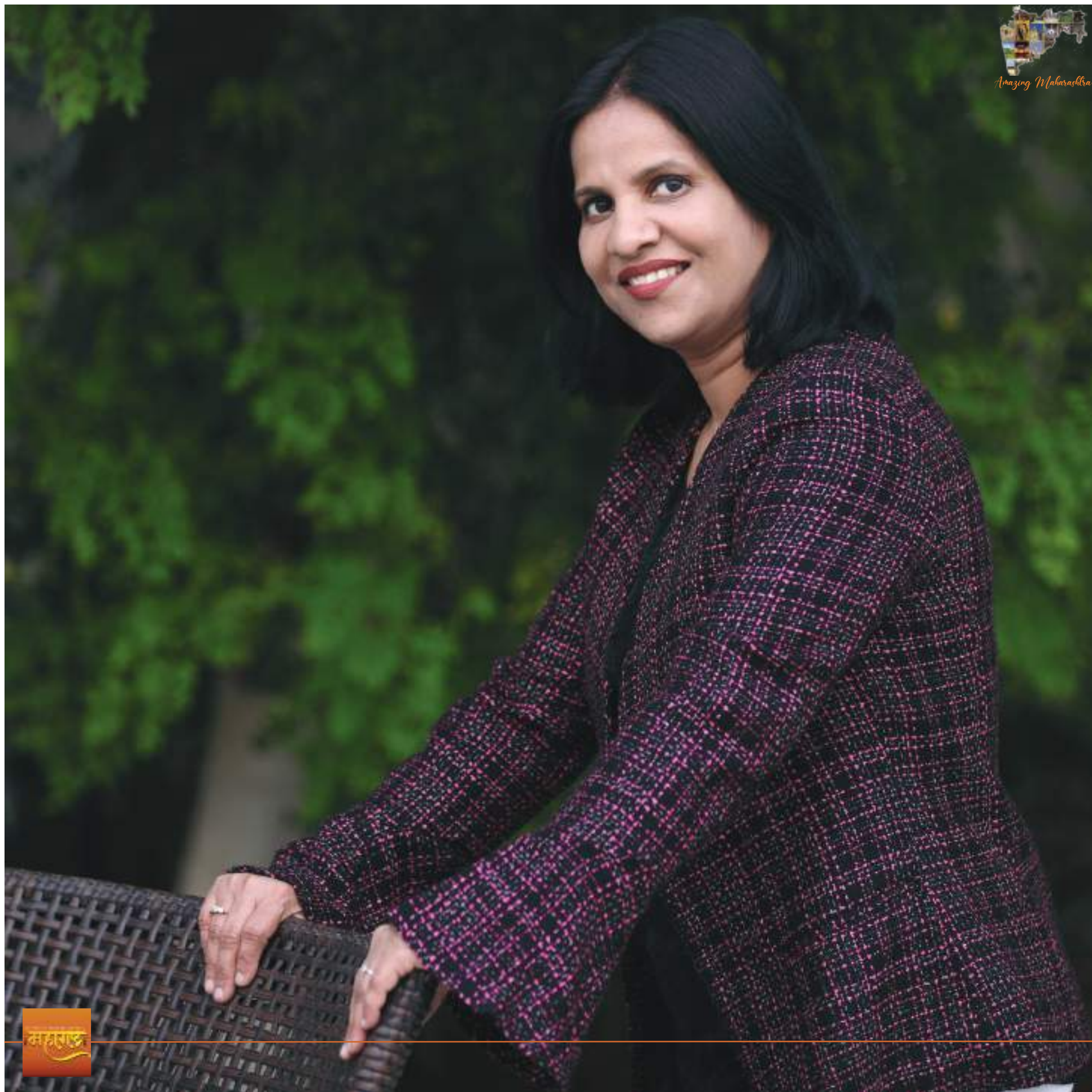
Caring for the needy and the socially out casted has framed Dr. Beena's perspective on life. She is a religious and spiritual person and aims to help people lead their lives the way they want to.

Her family life is based on similar principles; "As a parent, I am connected to my kids but not

attached. However I am there for them in need, but I do not believe in micromanagement." Live & let live is the principal of my life.

Having led a successful life, Dr. Beena adds that her magic mantra revolves around happiness and being content; "When we wake up in the morning, we have two choices, we can either be unhappy about the things we don't have or be happy about the things we do. I advise people to focus on the latter."





Aiming *for perfect results*

DR. VANDANA KADAM MHASKE, Dermatologist, Skin and hair Specialist



*“It is your decisions, not your condition,
that will determine your destiny.”*

Hailing from India's economic powerhouse, Mumbai, Dr. Vandana Kadam's story is that of a dreamer who wanted to break free from the shackles of economic hardship to carve a life of prosperity. “In my early childhood, I went through

a lot and decided to take my family forward and out of the situation we were in,” commented Vandana as she recalled memories of her humble upbringing where she and her family had to survive on the bare minimum.

“I used to study for 14-15 hours a day and my mother used to sit with me the entire night.”

By the time she was in 5th grade due to an excellent performance in school her father already started dreaming about making her a doctor, to fulfil his wish vandana has made decision to become a doctor and for that dream, she took the route of educating herself and succeeded in becoming a renowned dermatologist. Vandana's siblings also succeeded in life; “One of my sisters is a nurse, one is an accountant and one is a teacher. My brother is also a Creative Director. So we all

did well in the end.” Vandana shared that her mother played a huge role in helping her reach where she is now: “I used to study for 14-15 hours a day and my mother used to sit with me the entire night.”

Vandana started her career by getting a diploma in dermatology, which was followed by her getting her Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree. She also cleared the coveted Diplomate of National Board examination. Vandana started her

medical practice while working as a lecturer. Soon after, she got married and moved to Saudi Arabia with her husband Rajesh Kadam who is also been quite a support in Vandana's journey .

She stayed in the country for nine years and worked as a dermatologist. Her skills and experience landed her a job in Kaya Clinic, one of the world's leading skin, hair, and beauty care institutes for which she was offered a job in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE.





For Vandana life is always a goal with lot to achieve. “Keeping the same spirit with growing children is only challenge” laughingly she says. Just like Vandana, there are many Asians who have contributed heavily to the UAE, and many would argue that Asians are the major driving force behind the country’s growth over the years. Vandana, too, supports this notion and explained that the UAE has welcomed her with both arms and that she seldom feels like a foreigner.

“I do miss my family and friends, but we celebrate all the major festival here, so I do feel at home,” she added.

Being a perpetual learner, Vandana shows no signs of stopping any time soon and wants to take her profession further by opening her own medical facility; “without a dream, you cannot achieve anything. Start from the basics and start dreaming.”

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.....If you can learn from the worst times of your life, you’ll be ready to go to the best times of your life..”



Amazing Maharashtra

Designing

new worlds with Grace

PRIYAA TELAVVANE, Award winning Entrepreneur, Creative Architect & Interior designer



*Architect & Interior designer, International speaker, winner
MRS INDIA GLOBE 2019, trained actor, trained classical dancer*

Born in Mumbai in a middle-class family with two siblings, father in Govt official. Priyaa Telavvane was always in the limelight. From winning the coveted Miss India Globe 2019, amongst other leadership and entrepreneurial awards, she has excelled at her

studies and extracurricular activities since her childhood days. Being a visionary, Priyaa has always dreamt big, and she works towards her dreams to make them come true. After she completed her architecture studies.



Priyaa started working with one of the leading firms. She started as a junior designer; however, she quickly got up the hierarchical ladder thanks to her dedication and hard work. These qualities would eventually lead her to Dubai, where an Australian firm recognized her talents and offered her a managerial position in their UAE branch. “It was going all well. I had a lucrative job. Dubai gave me a very warm welcome,” added Priyaa.

The move to Dubai provided Priyaa with a renewed professional outlook and it went very well for her in the initial years, but she too had to struggle with the economic recession. “It just gave me a kick saying that I had to start something of my own,” she commented. Frustrated with the situation, Priyaa decided to start a company alongside her husband to put their expertise to good use.

She elaborated that her husband has been a constant pillar of support in her life, helping her stay on the right path. “He is very upfront and unbiased about his opinions,” added Priyaa.

She also explained that the new world doesn’t have a place for a typical boss, as nowadays, innovation requires constant give and take of ideas. And those ideas cannot only come from the top, so people have to be receptive to what others think regardless of their stature.

“If you have more experience in life, then you are just sharing your experience with people who have started their journey,” explained Priyaa.

“new world doesn’t have a place for a typical boss, as nowadays, ”



Priyaa, too, is a firm believer that Asians have contributed heavily to the overall growth of the UAE. “There are so many Asians who have set up businesses here and are giving their talents and innovations to this country,” she explained. She also added that UAE appreciates people who are willing to work to provide something unique to this world; “Rulers are giving so many opportunities to women who are into business.”

In her opinion, the strict rules and regulations are also a boon for the nation as then there are fewer loopholes for people to exploit, and she added

that most of the laws encourage people to do well. Staying en route to success, Priyaa added that people need to remain consistent with everything they do if they need to get real results. She also explained that people need to balance their work-life with their personal-life and that all these factors need to go hand in hand if one needs to live a life full of pleasant experiences.

Her husband Amol Jadhav from Kolhapur, since childhood very adaptive and ready for challenges. Also architect by profession. He has been very active in designing of various UAE

prime projects. “I prefer to give full support and courage to Priyaa as it always effect the business and family life, balancing of life is very important.” They have ason, Aaryan, who is in school, very quite and supportive child.





Changing *lives for good*

RIVA TULPULE, Young Environment Activists



Positively influenced by her parents, Riva Tulpule is a wishful young leader who has made substantial efforts to better the lives of people around her and the lives of many underprivileged women in India.

Riva, intrigued by how electronic waste was dealt with around the world, started doing her own research on the same subject to find out how she can minimize the harms of disposing of electronic waste. Through her platform WeCareDXB, she started working on the cause in 2017 and over the last 4 years has over 100 student volunteers, participation from over 20 schools and leading corporates, Govt entities which has till led to diverting over 30 tonnes of Electronic waste from the landfills and into proper recycling channels.

Apart from the electronic waste recycling initiative, Riva got inspired by the movie Padman and adopted over 700 girls from rural Maharashtra by educating them about importance

of Menstrual Hygiene and providing them with sanitary pads for a year. "Even talking about menstrual cycles is a taboo in rural areas and lack of hygiene was leading to several health and social issues" commented Riva. She continued her work for the girls and following year raised funds to provide basic footwear to over 600 girls who had to walk 3-4kms to school without any footwear.

Her work during Pandemic was also recognized by the Indian mission as she and her volunteer team provided dry grocery kits to affected labors visiting the consulate during those days. Riva is a speaker at various conferences and her work has been recognized thru several accolades she has received such as the "The 2020 Diana Award, UK", "2020 Middle East Youth Expo - UN Sustainability Leader Award" ; "Eco-Hero Award 2020, USA" and several others

Many would agree that thoughtful youngsters are the answer

to a brighter future, and Riva is a prime example of this notion. In her free time- Riva pursues her passion for piano and plays and represents the school in Tennis and Basketball. She looks forward to continue her work and pursue causes close to her heart. "Each child should pursue atleast 1 community project that is dear to them every year and collectively it will create a huge eco system of social change" Riva shares.





"There are two ways to look at how life works

and how people find their paths.

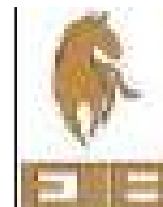
One way is you take your time and

try different things out.

The other is you settle in early."

- an inspirational quote from the book,





Making the best of everything

SHWETA SONAWANE - COO, Emirates International Insurance Brokers LLC



The former first lady of the United States of America, once said, do what you feel is right, for you'll be criticized anyway. That is a thought that Shweta Sonawane always lives by. As a passionate leader and someone who is a supreme

hard worker, Shweta owes these values to her parents and how she was raised up. She fondly remembers her childhood and considers those moments as the most precious moments of her life.



“Solve the problems, as if its never there”

As youngsters, both Shweta and her younger brother, despite the hardships their parents went through, always have had the best of everything. According to her, she was raised as a princess and often jubilant talking about it. It was her parent’s liberal thoughts and beliefs that led both of them to have a very happy and wild childhood. Their growing up years have always been full of debates, discussion about music, movies, art and other important events of the world. Her father a renowned lawyer and mother Ph.D. in Hindi running a media company, she gives credit for her larger-than-life attitude and outspoken personality to her parents, who despite their busy schedules were always very social, warm, loving and encouraging.

The entire family has always been very secular and positive. Optimism, determination, and

perseverance was something that came naturally to Shweta and her family. This did not deter her spirit even when at a very young age her relationship went awry. As a true dancer, who had learned Bharatnatyam for a decade, she knew that dancers don’t need wings to fly. With a degree in Economics and a deep interest in sociology she was confident in creating a mark for herself and soaring high, even in a foreign country. Despite the challenges in her personal life, she was confident of giving life all she had. After being at a job that wasn’t fulfilling or adding to her development, she got an opportunity to join Emirates International Insurance Brokers (EIIB). “I didn’t find insurance, insurance found me” as she likes to say laughingly. Her eagerness to learn and create a name for herself got her to grab every opportunity that came her way. Often, there were times when even before the

opportunity knocking on her door, she was all ready to make the most of it. Having worked tirelessly for years, she feels her true reward is the relationship she has built with her clients, partners and people she has worked with over the years.





From an administrative job to an insurance executive to today handling complex insurances for large corporates, Shweta takes pride in literally being on the speed dial of her clients, whom she fondly calls friends.

Her raging fire to prove herself and create an identity that stood out from the crowd has always helped her to be at the forefront of everything.

Her career in insurance also led her to meet Pradip, the love of her life. It wasn't love at first

sight but as they began spending more time together professionally, they realized despite their many differences, it was immense respect and admiration for each other and the values they hold that bought them together.

She is extremely proud of her husband Pradip's intellect and acumen. He has contributed greatly to her learning and life experiences. Together, they have built a unique company with integrity, honesty and professionalism at its very core. Work and more work is literally their adrenaline

rush. Just like her parents, Shweta is an extremely doting mother, is very liberal and believes in positive parenting.

In her free time, she feeds her soul through learning Kathak and reading books.

Success is not the destination, it's a continuous journey. At every speed breaker that comes your way, you must speed up even more and get past it with full confidence and vigor, concludes Shweta.





Capturing *moments*, creating memories

SUCHETA PHULE , Short Film Maker

"In life there is lot. More you see, more you want to explore."



"Creativity doesn't wait for that perfect moment. It fashions its own perfect moments out of ordinary ones." - Bruce Garrabrandt. Sucheta Phule exemplifies this quote with her journey as a filmmaker.

Born and brought up in a culturally rich household, in Pune; Sucheta Phule has risen to become one of the most prominent filmmakers and activists of Indian origin. Thanks to her father, the late Bal Phule, she immersed herself in books and started writing since her early childhood.

He played a significant role in introducing her to the world of books, "my father had so many books at home that he started a public library because there was not enough space at home and that library is almost as old as I am," she added.

With litterateur and artist friends frequenting her father's home, Sucheta absorbed the essence of artistry; be it love for written words or celluloid. 'Lekin', a film that he co-produced was critically acclaimed and went on to win several national awards.





Losing her father in her teens, Sucheta had to take care of her family business. But her love for learning did not weaken. She found that she had a flair for languages during her childhood, and after completing her Master's in German literature, she worked as a German language specialist in the fields of translation, interpretation and training. Her corporate stint involved extensive travel across German speaking countries.

Sucheta continued on a similar career path when she moved to the UAE and worked as a German language specialist. After having her first child, Anahita, Sucheta took a sabbatical, and she realised that her true calling was writing and storytelling. This was the beginning of her creative career where she worked on production and research of various documentaries in Dubai.

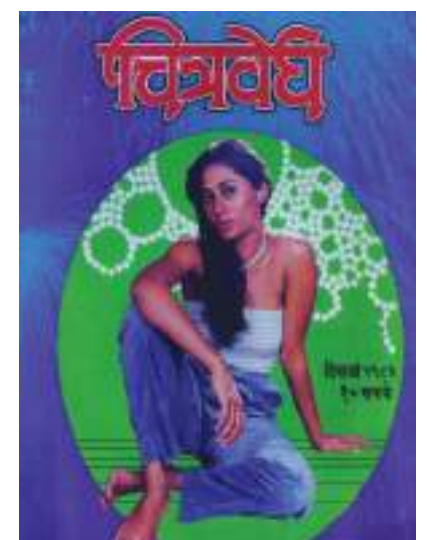
Upon asked about her work ethic, Sucheta commented that she is a firm believer in the power of team work. Be it a corporate project or a film, a good team takes the vision on paper to its completion. As a filmmaker, there are many variables for a single person to control and that people need to work together towards a common goal to give the story on paper its place on screen. "I cannot go to a set and say, okay, this is what I will do today. That is just not possible singlehandedly," she added. Contrary to popular belief, a

good film is made less on set and more on two tables; writing table and editing table. A well written screenplay is the most important aspect of filmmaking. No amount of gimmickry can replace a solid script.

The Asian community has played a big role when it comes to the overall development of Dubai. "I think Asians have contributed quite a lot right from the inception of this city," added Sucheta. She also feels that Dubai has a vibe of Mumbai because both cities are awake till late in the night, and appreciate and reward hard work.

In 2017, Sucheta founded a yearly short film festival, 'Desert Flower International Short Film Festival' in UAE. The festival is an ode to the multiculturalism of Dubai and aims to give back to the society with this platform. The team curates and screens five short films from five different countries. Sucheta believes that every film chosen becomes a window through which one gets a perspective of ethos and culture that the film reflects.

Despite early skepticism, the film festival was well received and continues to draw in crowds. "I am sure there are takers for good content, if one takes the effort to create something meaningful," commented Sucheta.





After the critical success of her feature film – The Journey to Her Smile, Sucheta is excited to explore newer horizons. Her short film – Niruttar, also opens up the grey areas in human mind. Just like she highlighted the child safety issue with her first movie, she wants to pave way for discussion, dialogue and solutions to different social issues with her next films. She feels that socially relevant films do help transform individuals and she says, “will continue making films, which touch human lives.”

She also revamped her father’s film based Marathi magazine – Chitravedh, an annual Diwali edition from the 80’s to make it a meaningful and popular digital entertainment; now bilingual. It has curated content like the choicest poetry recitations, unplugged music sessions and masterclasses by

film industry veterans.

She wants to work on creating a documentary of poetry collective, where regional poetry is documented and highlighted with nuances of local dialect. She also champions the cause of Indian handlooms wherever possible and documenting the loom stories in a visual tapestry of colours and weaves is on her wish list too.

Her husband Ameet Hundekari, works for a Software firm, and is a connoisseur of music, books and art. He nurtures, encourages and supports Sucheta’s creative pursuits.

Both, avid travellers, trek together and also take off on solo trips. Their daughter, Anahita, too accompanies on treks with them. She has been pursuing ballet since the tender age of four and dreams of becoming a vet.





Pursuing excellence

VANDANA DESHPANDE, Director - Samsotech International, IT Professional, Guide and Mentor

“The need of the hour is to keep reinventing”.



“Knowledge is a potential power” says Vandana Deshpande. Knowledge transforms into power only when you apply it to take actions. Technology & globalization are transforming our economies, workplaces, communities &

families. Hence, continuous learning is the minimum requirement to be successful & happy.

The need of the hour is to keep reinventing.

“Knowledge is a potential power”



Vandana & Jayant Deshpande established Samsotech in 2007. Today, it is a leading global software developer and supplier of hospitality & security solutions world-wide.

globally for product innovation & business excellence. During 2019, Samsotech won the prestigious Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Innovation award.

completed general management course from IIM Ahmedabad that is helping her immensely in developing international business for Samsotech.

It also provides business intelligence systems to travel & tourism industry. Currently Samsotech serves customers in 131 countries & has offices in Singapore, Madrid, Santa Clara & Dubai. Samsotech has won several awards

Vandana Deshpande, holds a Masters in Electronics from University of Mumbai and started her career as a lecturer in college. Vandana enjoyed teaching & guiding students in building strong foundation. Vandana later

She believes success is a byproduct of hard work and perseverance. She enjoys building long-term relationships, be it in business, family, friends or with her colleagues at Samsotech.



“Have courage to follow your dreams”.

During the pandemic, working from home became a new normal. Making best use of time, Vandana read close to 20 books and took 2 online courses conducted by Harvard Business School. She is also a health freak & in year 2020, she successfully completed half marathon at RAK.

On the family front, Vandana and her husband Jayant Deshpande enjoy traveling all over the world for business and pleasure. They also

enjoy reading books & watching movies. Together they are proud parents of two daughters, Sonali and Sampada, who are presently settled in USA. They were recently blessed with a grand daughter, Ananya.

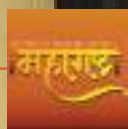
Vandana says, “Age is just a number and learning should never stop”.

Her advice to today’s generation is - “Have courage to follow your dreams”.





Amazing Maharashtra



Variety is the spice of life

DR. DHANANJAY DATAR - Chairman & Managing Director of Al Adil Group



Dhananjay Datar is the Indian spice king who owns Al Adil Trading, a household name in UAE, GCC, and India. With his father, Mahadev Datar, he was amongst

the first few who realized the potential of the Indian spice trade. Now, with 39 retails stores and counting, Dhananjay deals in more than 9,000 types of

products and has established his brand as a one-stop-shop for anyone looking to buy authentic Indian products in the Middle East.





Despite what many may think, everything was not as fragrant for Dhananjay during his childhood as it is today. He spent his early years with his maternal grandmother in Amaravati, a small city in Maharashtra, India. They were so impoverished that his grandmother didn't even have the money to buy spices - the prime commodity he sells today. "My grandmother was a poor lady but had a lot of self-worth.

When my father offered to pay her small maintenance money to take care of my expenses, she refused. So I had to live a modest life that fit her budget and resources," he said.

Looking back at those modest times, he vividly remembers when he had to go to his school barefoot as he didn't have any money to buy shoes. For four years, Dhananjay spent this tough childhood with his grandmother until his father retired from the Indian Air Force and took him to Mumbai.

Dhananjay's life in the UAE began when he was

invited by his father to help set up the Al Adil grocery store from a tiny 150 square feet space in Bur Dubai. "Back in the 80s, the only grocery store you would find in the UAE were the tiny shops which were mostly owned by some communities in India," he added.

It was not all-smooth sailing for the father-son duo, who faced multiple hardships when establishing the brand. With Dhananjay's foresightedness, they decided to tap into the spice trade's potential and decided to stock up on all different kinds of spices and ingredients from all over India; "When we started in 1984, our vision was to create a world full of flavors.

It was a very timely thought." There was no one else in the business like us." Their venture worked, and today, Al Adil is synonymous with authentic Indian when it comes to spices.

Dhananjay also is keen supporter of social issues, he is been helping at various fronts- when the Kerala flight crashed he helped all the persons

with good amount, also arranged the marriage of one girl in Kerala whose father was one of the deceased passenger.

He also helped thousands of stuck compatriots in UAE and other GCC countries. Not only he arranged the flights he also provided them medical support during pandemic time .



*“Whenever is possible, I always like to give back to society,
my family also support me in that”*



His wife Vandana also is a strong support for him, she is always been a motivating factor in his decisions. They have two sons Hrishikesh & Rohit. Their next gen have learnt a lot from their parents' life journey, which made them positive in their approach.

“I always worked hard to connect with my customer to get their feedback. This is truly the only way you can improve.”

Dhananjay likes to keep his daily routine very systematic. He loves yoga and spends time watching moderate shows in his “me time”.

Throughout his life, Dhananjay has credited the people he works with and his customers for paving the way for all his achievements; “I always worked hard to connect with my customer to get their feedback. This is truly the only way you can improve.” As his mantra for success, Dhananjay said that people should never take any opportunity lightly and grasp everything that comes their way.







Food

for big thought

SANJAY PATNE, Bombay Bites



Sanjay Patne's story is a reminder to all of us that small achievements can snowball into much bigger things in life if we keep working towards a bigger goal. With a consistent and planned approach, he too worked to achieve something big, and today, he is one of the most preferred restauranters in Dubai for authentic Maharashtrian food.

Hailing from Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, Sanjay was always a businessman at heart. He first got into the

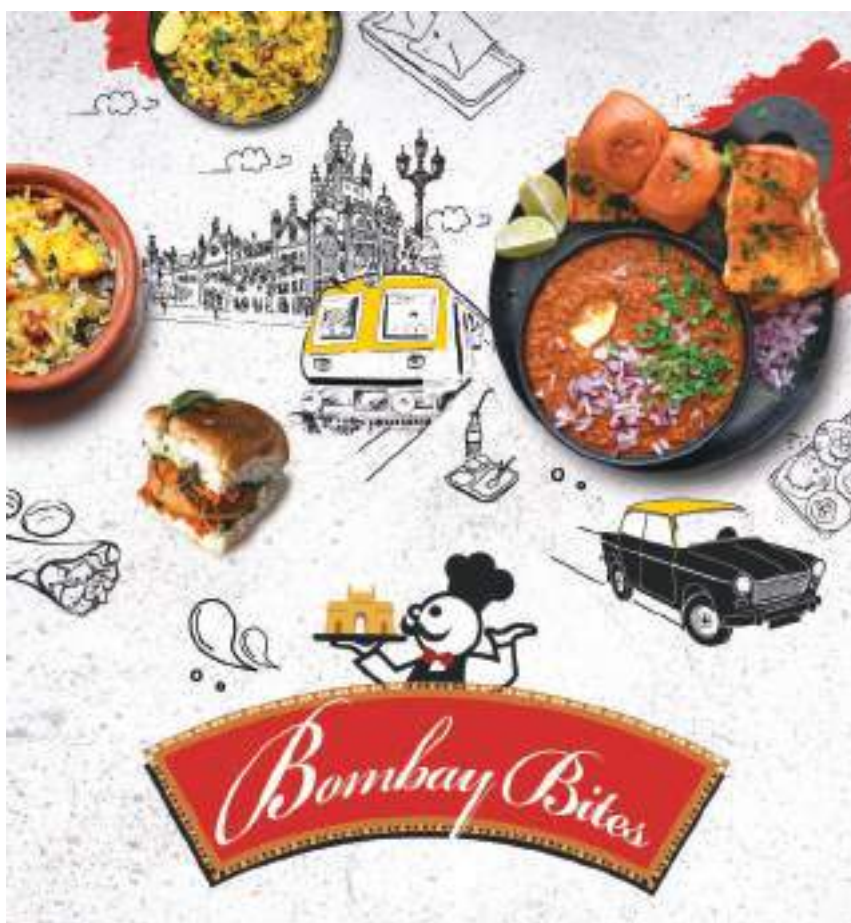
business of selling imitation jewelry, but following his passion for food and his wife's culinary expertise, he opened up a restaurant in his home town. "My wife is the brain behind the business. She came up with the recipes and also improved the dishes over time to suit a wider palate," added Sanjay. With his wife Vaishali, Sanjay ran that place for seven years, and on his brother's advice, he started surveilling for an opportunity to open a similar restaurant in Dubai.

“From two employees, I got four, and from four, I got eight. I had my taste of UAE’s success.”

After doing his research on the food scene in Dubai, he came to the city in 2007 with two employees and set up a small Vada Pav and Chai store. Instead of flooding his menu with a variety of different items, he focused on selling limited but sure-shot dishes. “I started small because I was afraid that the locals wouldn’t like my food. I also didn’t want to put any burden on my business back home,” commented Sanjay. Like many, he too was skeptical about his venture’s success, but to everyone’s surprise,

including his own, his small shop became a hit amongst the locals. After the positive reviews he got for his first restaurant, Sanjay decided to up the ante and set up a bigger restaurant at a better location; “From two employees, I got four, and from four, I got eight. I had my taste of UAE’s success.

I didn’t want to stop now and decided to go all in.” At his new restaurant in Dubai, Sanjay diversified the menu but followed the same Maharashtrian-Indian theme.





Sanjay never aimed to get the most out of his customer's pockets and focused on giving them quality food at a reasonable price; "From 2007, to now, the rent has gone up three times.

But it was inevitable, so I always focused on building up my customer base, and not on profit alone." He also added that he didn't even increase the price of his dishes. "I sold Vada Pav for AED 4 in 2007, and I continue to sell it for AED 4 till 2020."

Following up on his success in the restaurant business, Sanjay has

recently ventured into the world of tour and travel. He still believes in the same philosophy of integrity and is providing travelers with budget solutions for their travel needs.

Sanjay has achieved what most would deem impossible. He comments that he always believed in making a constant effort and also advises people to do the same; "In my opinion, there is no alternative or shortcut to success. I worked all my life, and honestly, that is what makes it worth it."





Amazing Maharashtra





Where growth *isn't* a choice

SHRIKANT KALE, Managing Director - Al Saniya Food Stuff Trading Llc



For someone to not even have a proper school to study in, to become a leader in a highly competitive industry is a commendable achievement. Shrikant Kale's life has followed a similar turn of events. From a small deprived village in the Satara district in Maharashtra, he has risen to become a prominent business tycoon in the UAE.

Always eager to learn, Shrikant shares that his teachers were a big part of his life and his journey towards success. "Whatever we learn in our

childhood is essentially what we become when we grow up," commented Shrikant as he described the importance of education and how it can shape a person's identity.

He recalls a story from his childhood, which he describes as the cornerstone of what shaped his personality. "There was one teacher who I can never forget. She taught me the importance of humility with a story; Whenever there is a flood, all the small trees bow, but all the big trees get flushed away," added Shrikant.

“ Life to get from buffelo to BMW”.

After finishing his studies in his hometown, Shrikanh got his first job by pure luck; “I went to Pune to meet my sister after completing my exams. I met one of my father’s friends there and after asking about my education, he took me to a job interview, which went well, and that’s how I got my first job at an electric supply company in Bombay.”

Shrikant shared that he had never been to a professional workplace and did not know the etiquettes before starting his first job. “My first day at the company and I went in wearing slippers,” commented Shrikant while describing how disconnected he felt during the first few months at the job and how he got to know about the minute details that he had never thought about during his life in his hometown village.

Shrikant worked hard at whatever job he got. After gaining some viable work experience and

with the help of his family, he moved to the UAE in search of better opportunities. “It was not a free ride. My uncle could have taken me before, but he wanted to see how well I could do by myself. Thankfully, my hard work and ambition were enough to convince him and then he helped me shift to Dubai,” commented Shrikant.

A new life in Dubai did not do any favours to Shrikant. For a decade or so, he was fired from numerous jobs, but rejection never let him down. With each new job, Shrikant learned new skills and tried to better his professional outlook in any way possible.

He decided to take up more courses to get more qualified. “For the first ten years in my career, I did not get a chair to sit,” explained Shrikant. After gaining some confidence, Shrikant went to his new boss to ask him for a job where he could prove himself; “I told him that I wanted to sell

something and if I didn’t do well, then they need not pay me.

The boss already wanted to throw me out, and he knew that if I didn’t do well, then he could now fire me with ease.” The company Shrikant worked at sold pumps, and eager to make his first sale, he thought about how he could pitch the idea to the clients.

Shrikant came up with a plan to pitch it to a dairy company to use it in their stables to cool down their cattle. The company liked his ingenious plan, and that is how he made his first sale of AED 450,000.

After doing well at his new position, Shrikant’s efforts were recognized by his company, and he got the praise and approval he yearned for.



“This country UAE has given people like me the opportunity to work hard,”

After working as a salesman for some years, Shrikant started his own venture - Al Saniya Food Stuff.

He worked hard with his family, and eventually, his business flourished. Multiple awards and accolades later, Shrikant is now one of the most prominent names in the food industry. Staying true to his roots, Shrikant stays humble and credits the UAE government and the people around him for his success.

He believes that the UAE has been blessed with leaders who are working selflessly to better the economy. “This country has given people like me the opportunity to work hard,” he added.

Shrikant also thanks his wife, Smita Srikant Kale, for always being by his side and giving him the support he needed throughout his professional life. “She is taking care of a lot of things in the business, and she is a problem solver.

She has contributed a lot to the business,” explained Shrikant.

Apart from his professional and personal life, Shrikant shares that his message for society is never to compare yourself to anybody; “God has created only one version of you, so if he believed in you to make you who you are, then it is up to you to believe in yourself and be what you want to be.”



Time is everything

DHAWAL G NANDEDKAR, Proprietor, Prudential Auditing & Verico Auditing



“Don’t spend time to make money – spend money to buy time instead”

This is not the typical success story. With financially stable and educated parents and grandparents, no rags-to-riches stuff here. No special trouble to earn laurels. Rather, simplicity is success, here.

The Nandedkars worked for pleasure, for the joy of giving to the society and for providing a livelihood to do that. They have taken thorough advantage of the liberty provided by a business background, to take time off to do whatever pleases them most. Dhawal carried over this legacy.

About half his childhood he stayed in hostels, where a

multi-cultural friends circle honed his outlook. “Anyone can make money; you choose how you make yours” his father advised him. “You take two hours to do what others do in eight, so work for two hours and use the six to live” is what his mentor told him and “if you work for all eight, you’ll be envied by colleagues, feared by juniors and hated by seniors” his father added. At the cost of doubling his revenue, he doubled his free time by staying in a small town. That allowed him to keep the office and residence in the same premises, cutting down on wasteful commute, and simultaneously engaged assistants to carry out mundane tasks.

Dhawal commenced financial consultancy in 1996 in Nasik, servicing clients mainly in Mumbai. He was called to the UAE in 2002, when he was asked to evaluate why a project was incurring a loss of one million Dirhams per month and was consequently asked to prove that his report was right.

In the first four months, he managed to increase the production of that same project from 20,000 tons a month to 50,000 tons; and that too, with half the people on board than earlier. By the end of the first year, the company achieved breakeven point. And then, they set up two new facilities, taking the production to 15,000 tons in a single shift.

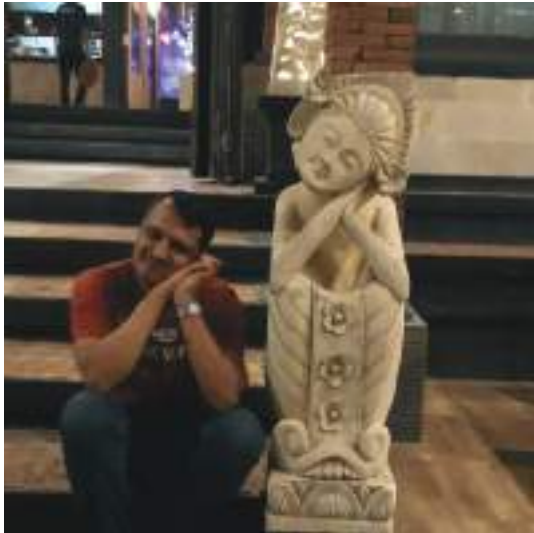
When he was asked to head multi-national operations, he resigned as pre-decided, as he had completed the promised three years with them. He wanted to return to India, at a time when he was the CEO of a project with an investment of over USD 80 million, 235 people and three distinct divisions like mining, transporting and shipping. But his destiny paved a different path for him as he stayed back in

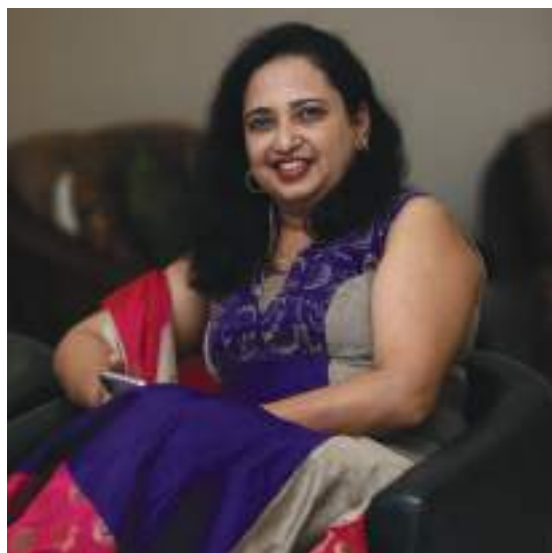
the UAE to fulfil the offers that he kept receiving from many different companies; and eventually set up practice as a chartered accountant.

Dhawal is a firm believer in the thought that we need to stay on our path regardless of setbacks. Failure, to success, is like exercise or practice. It is an essential element that cannot be avoided.

Every businessman out there has failed in his projects, not just initially but several times during his journey, and everyone has lost money to receivables that turned bad or other reasons, sometimes often losing everything that they had earned or more. But, they do not give up and keep up – all of them, without exception.

This belief is exceedingly important during the present times, when many businesses are unable to achieve their plans due to factors beyond their hands that have caused a global slowdown. Nevertheless, if people persevere, they will achieve what they set out to achieve.





When asked what he feels about the Asian community's contribution to the growth of UAE, Dhawal said, "The Asian community has contributed to every economy on this planet" adding "Asians are go-getters – they will not say that something cannot be done – they will find a way and do it."

About work ethics and professional roles, Dhawal believes that every person in an organisation is a leader in his / own own department; "in a restaurant, the waiter who takes your order is representing that restaurant, so he / she is a leader."

To survive and thrive as a businessman or professional, Dhawal relies on his family. "I always tell businessmen that their biggest strength is their wife. Everything comes next," he added.

His wife Neelam hails from the cultural city of Kolhapur and has two siblings. She graduated

from Nasik and holds two post graduate degrees in Finance. She manages the administrative and financial departments of their businesses.

She is active on many educational, literary and philanthropic fronts, with notable achievements in all. "Both of my kids are very friendly with me," Neelam says. Their daughter Anushka is studying in Maharashtra and son Aadi is in Fujairah. He has an analytical temperament and is most likely to pursue a career in the science field while Anushka has a more creative bent of mind.

"The more people your decisions affect, the more money you make," commented Dhawal after being asked about how he thinks a business hierarchy works in this modern era. The last thing Dhawal wanted to add was his message to the people.

He elaborated that there is 65 billion light years of observable universe, and in that, we have found

only one planet capable of sustaining life. And on this planet that has millions of species, only one is capable of intelligent thought. And out of the billions of people who have lived and would ever live, each individual is unique and has almost exactly the same number of years, irrespective of his intelligence and wealth.

That is why we need to make the best use of the limited number of years that we have, to live the life that we were meant to live.







Achievements *supersede* imagination

PRADIP R. SONAWANE - Founding Partner & Managing Director, Emirates International Insurance Brokers LLC



Success is one word that means different things to different people. For some it may mean landing up in a good job or being able to afford a foreign vacation. But for those who've witnessed

poverty upfront, success means survival. Such is the story of Pradip R Sonawane, a true role model for those who believe in thinking big and achieving bigger.



“Honesty is the best POLICY.”

Born in a large joint family in Pune, Pradip had seen life from a low angle right from the beginning. His grandparents had 16 children in total out of which only 9 survived. “We were 21 members living in a 2 room kitchen house, imagine the predicament,” recalls Pradip.

“My father was the sole earning member and because he hadn’t had the opportunity to study, he ensured all his children receive good education. I didn’t know how he managed to feed so many people while educating his 5 children but he never compromised on our education, and that’s precisely what transformed our lives.”

During his early college days itself he had started working. From tuitions to selling masalas, Pradip had a hard time struggling for survival. But as

hard work pays off, he managed to crack the IAS exams and secured job as Class 1 officer at various public sector institutions. But destiny seemed to have another plan for him. Being an honest man, true to his work, Pradip started developing an aversion for Government jobs due to his urge to do something bigger in a competitive environment. “I fought with my father too because there was a dire need of money and I just didn’t feel like taking up this job,” he exclaimed. And it was during this period that the doors of the insurance industry opened for him. He landed up in a job at the New India Assurance Company and that was just the start.

A boy in a quest for survival was now enjoying a comfortable life sitting in an air conditioned office, receiving good perks and benefits, but

something was missing and that was his need to soar higher. Around that time, an International company Royal & Sun Alliance in Saudi Arabia had advertised for underwriters and Pradip, seeking a change, appeared for the interview. He qualified for the position and soon took his first flight to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in 1992.

During his tenure in Saudi Arabia, he learnt a lot but the entrepreneur in him wanted to fly. After a few years, he moved to the UAE and continued working for many top notch international insurance companies until 2002 when he co-founded a boutique insurance broking house, the Emirates International Insurance Brokers LLC.

“This was a dream come true and since then, there’s been no looking back.”



Where his professional life was undergoing change, his personal life wasn't short of a roller coaster ride either which ended his 20 year long marriage.

But as they say, good things come to those who wait, Pradip too happened to meet his better half Shweta Sonawane soon. Shweta, with her loving nature entered as a strong pillar of support, and remains one to this day. Together they have built a strong bond of love and trust running a successful business together along with

nurturing a beautiful family. Pradip is a proud father of three children, his eldest son Akshay has joined family business, daughter Prerana is heading partnerships at a rewards company and the youngest one Kiaan is School going.

Today Pradip is a Founding Member of Capital Club, DIFC. He serves as a member on the Main Technical committee of Emirates Insurance Associations, a member of Federation of Afro – Asian Insurers & Reinsurers (FAIR) and Indian Business Professional Council (IBPC), Dubai.

He's is the President of DICCI, UAE. He is also a visiting international faculty member for post graduate insurance course at MET, Mumbai, India.

An avid nature lover, Pradip aims to climb the Mount Everest in near future. Professionally too, he is planning a giant venture in India, for which he is excited.

His belief in himself and his values have brought him this far, making him an inspiration for one and many.





Amazing Maharashtra



W. inners

never quit

RAHUL RATNAKAR GOKHALE, Partner - Premier Brain

“You must chase your dreams”



The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Little did Rahul know that when he decided to step away from his shining grades of maths and science and pursue chartered accountancy, he'd be opening doors to greatness.

Persistence, Optimism, and hard work are unbeatable combinations for success, and whether as a child or as an

Auditor, Rahul Ratnakar Gokhale believes in never giving up. Having studied in Abhinav Vidyalaya High School in Pune and graduating from the renowned Brihan Maharashtra College of Commerce in Pune and ILS Law College Pune, he has always been extremely content with his childhood and educational career.



*“Don’t regret about sand which gone out of your hand,
look towards whats left in your hand”*

The amount of luck coming someone’s way completely depends on someone’s willingness to act and their determination. When his resume that was submitted by a friend, got selected for a job in Ernst & Young Kuwait, Rahul’s success cannot be achieved overnight.

He has now spent close to 28 years in the Gulf. With 18 years in the Kingdom of Kuwait, he developed his skills and talents simultaneously as the country progressed. With years of experience and insight in his Rahul moved to Dubai, which is now his home for the last 10 years. As someone who is passionate about theatre, Rahul always possessed a broad intellectual and emotional pallet from where he drew inspiration to keep moving in life.

It happens sometimes, when you suddenly know, it’s time to start something new and trust the

magic of new beginnings, recently Rahul commenced his new innings with Premier Brains a Dubai based financial advisory firm. He is determined to turn his brand Premier Brains into a legacy. He wants people to remember him through the brand and not vice versa as he believes a legacy is etched into the minds of others and is all about carving your name on the hearts of people.

Having traveled close to 40 countries and lived in the most unique places in world such as Amazon Jungles, Kenyan Jungles, Australian Desert and even walking on glacier in Argentina, Rahul believes in making memories and leaving footprints where he goes. His never give up spirit and ability to overcome any challenge is what has helped him to look at the glass as half full rather than half empty at all times. He loves theatre in his ‘me time’.

Building on the innovative skills that he inherited from his father who worked at the very first penicillin company in India. Rahul knew he wanted to break the prejudices of being just a doctor or an engineer, decided to peruse his Chartered Accountancy qualification for his love for analytics and precision is influenced by his mother, who prior to his birth worked with the Maharashtra government.





“There is always a light at the end of dark tunnel, so persue for that light”

He believes in community work and giving back to community. He was President of Maharashtra Mandal Dubai, one of the largest Marathi community organization in 2017-18. Currently he is Treasurere of GMBF Global, a Dubai based organization helping entrepreneurs from Maharashtra

in pandemic. Over the years she personally went across many camps in UAE in her desire to help needy.

As analytical and skeptical as he may be as an auditor but in his personal life values of a person are of prime importance to him.

His wife Archana who is from Pune and Ex IT professional is always a motivating factor for him. She is an artist by nature. She has a kind heart toward the needy of the society, she was involved arranging food far many needy families across the region, particularly

About Pandemic and current times, he is of the opinion that as there is always light at end of dark tunnel , this too shall pass as nothing lasts forever and life must go on. Your attitude and the will to do something is all that matters in the end.





Amazing Maharashtra



Perceive, *Prepare, Progress*

RAM SAWANT, Management Professional

“Every challenge is an opportunity to learn and better oneself.”

“Every challenge is an opportunity to learn and better oneself.” This the mantra that has helped Ram Savant overcome his impoverished childhood in an underdeveloped village, to becoming a financial tycoon. His story is truly an inspiring and redefining one for anyone looking for motivation. Owing to his family's

financial situation, Ram gained a hunger for achievement early on in his life and aimed to get on his feet as soon as possible. He started learning the tricks of various trades and while completing his diploma in finance management, he worked as a full-time employee to support his family. He has done MBA from Bolton University, UK.

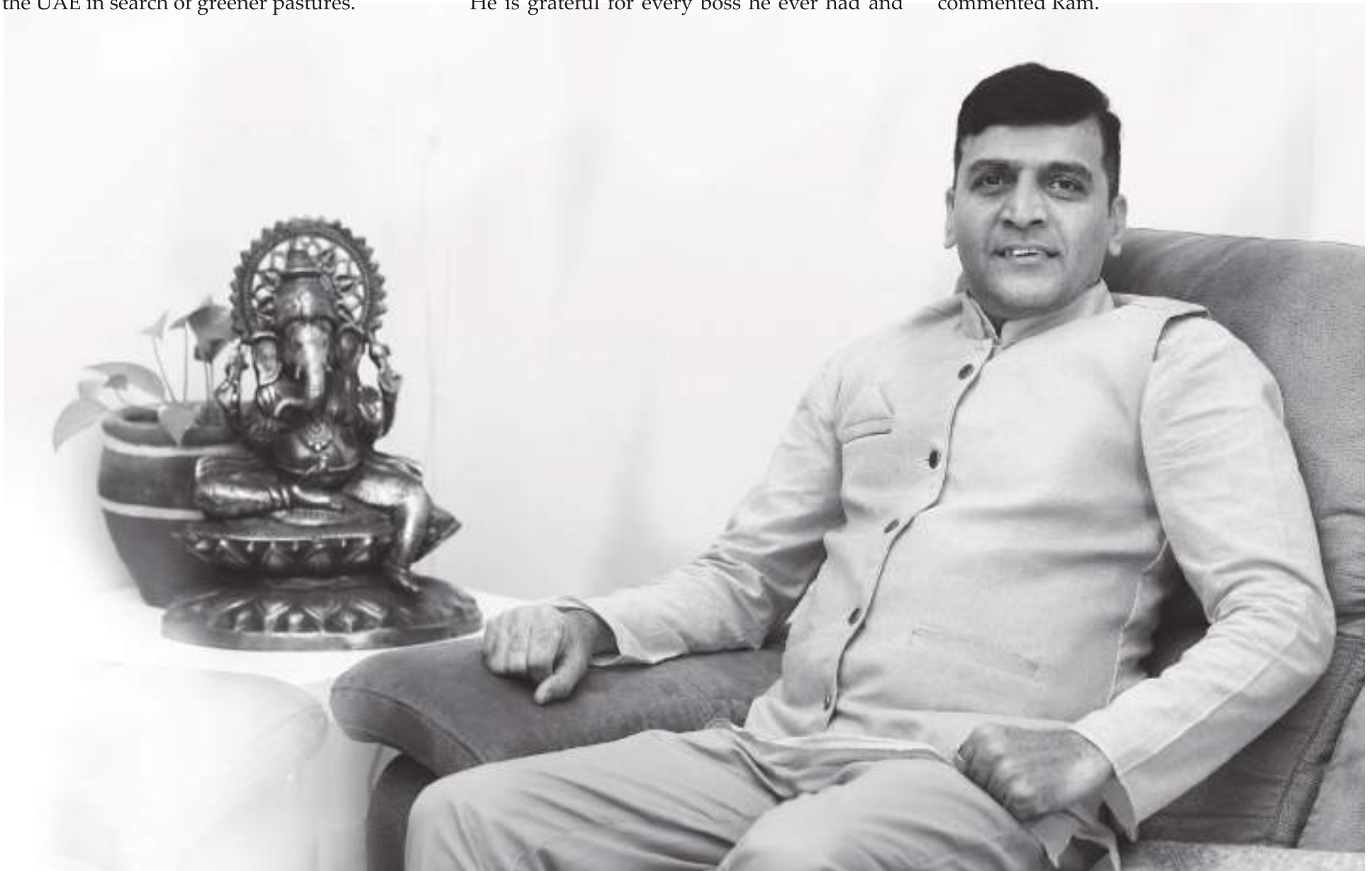
“Thanks to the opportunities I got in this country, and thanks to the people of this country, I realized my dreams,”

He also actively participated as a part of the National Cadet Corps where he got into parasailing and was also invited to the prestigious Republic Day Parade. After completing his schooling and gaining viable work experience, Ram moved from Mumbai to the UAE in search of greener pastures.

Shift to the UAE helped Ram achieve his professional capacities. “Thanks to the opportunities I got in this country, and thanks to the people of this country, I realized my dreams,” added Ram.

He is grateful for every boss he ever had and

added that they dawned the roles of true leaders and helped shape his career. Ram, too, believes that leadership is a virtue and every organization needs a person who can provide a positive outlook even in the direst of situations. “Leader shows the right path to everyone,” commented Ram.





With his wife Sunila Ram Sawant, Ram has spent more than 20 years in UAE. Like many who travel to the Middle East, he, too, had decided to come to the country for work, but he fell in love with the culture and decided to call it their new home.

“Work frames life, but hobbies frame the soul,” staying true to this quote, Ram feels that people have lost touch with their personal life thanks to the hustle and bustle of modern cities. “I want to grow trees in my childhood village and help people realize the importance of planting trees

and crops,” he adds. Ram loves travelling besides being a cricket lover.

As far as his message to the world is concerned, Ram comments that people should work towards big dreams and shouldn’t compromise on them.





Rowing *against the tides*

VIVEK KOLHATKAR, Chartered Insurer & General Secretary - GMBF

“Life is a rollercoaster but you must have courage to enjoy it”



History has shown us time after time that people can achieve great things regardless of where they are from.

Vivek is a real example of this fact. Born in a typical Marathi household in Mumbai, he rose to become a titan in the world of insurance and risk management and has more

than 30 years of experience under his belt.

Throughout his childhood, Vivek was always around his family and friends. “Caring and sharing have been very natural to us,” he added.

Starting his career immediately after graduating, Vivek joined a chemical factory. He added that he had to work in strict shifts, and there were no regular means of transportation to and from his home and his workplace. One unfortunate night after failing to find a means to get back home, Vivek decided to quit his factory job and returned to Mumbai to work as a medical representative. However, his new job did not do him any favors as it was equally, if not more challenging.

He had to shift from the chemical to the medical field, and his job was to sell medicines in an obscure part of the city. Working as a medical sales rep demanded him to act more proactively. Vivek took up this challenge with open arms and didn't falter. This ended up shaping this personality altogether, converting him into a bold, outgoing individual.

Alongside working a full-time job, he continually tried to improve his career. He kept giving exams for banking and insurance fields, and eventually, fate smiled back at him, and he landed a job as a probationary officer. This is how he entered the insurance industry in 1984 and worked with a government company for over 19 years.

Many of us would stop trying after landing a respectable government job, but Vivek did not want to settle and kept trying to better himself. "Working in the insurance industry, I kept acquiring professional qualifications and became a prominent part of the industry," explained Vivek. His hard work again bore him the fruit. His qualifications and experience got him selected as a foreign representative for the New India Assurance Co. Ltd. With his new post, Vivek traveled to multiple countries. "My final posting

was in Oman as a country manager, and from there, I got an opportunity to come to Dubai," added Vivek as he shared further details about his arrival in UAE.

By the time Vivek got to Dubai in 2005, he was already a well-qualified personnel in the insurance industry. He was a chartered insurer and got an offer for Vice President's position in a prominent firm.

Vivek shared that to excel at this new frontier, he had to unlearn many aspects of his professional past.

"In India, by number and by variety, the corporate sector is much more developed, but in Dubai, it is like a window to the world," said Vivek as he highlighted unique aspects of Dubai as a city to work in.



“In India, by number and by variety, the corporate sector is much more developed, but in Dubai, it is like a window to the world,”

Rising to the occasion once again, Vivek landed himself amidst some of the most challenging projects worldwide. He was working on the Burj Khalifa, the tallest risk in the world, and the Dubai Metro, the longest horizontal driverless metro project. “These are my lifetime achievements; working on two of the most iconic projects in the world.” added Vivek.

He explained that in the world of insurance, new things equal more risk. And for these two projects, Vivek worked with people from over 50 nationalities and was responsible for the daunting task of risk management.

As a family man, Vivek said that his wife Vrushali, is the pillar of support and strength in his life. He also added that his daughter Purva who was earlier into hospitality industry and she

was well recognized by famous talk show host Oprah Winfrey while at her stay in India., married to Rohan Potnis, has been a constant source of pride and joy; "she is another great example of simple living and high thinking."

Throwing some light on this astute work ethic and professionalism, Vivek added: “If you want to remain relevant in any profession, one should accept ongoing changes, should adopt to the changes and make the necessary alterations. Otherwise, you are doomed to become irrelevant.”

Vivek summed up our interesting conversation very well by saying As an Insurance professional & as a General Secretary of large successful Business Forum (GMBF Global) the way forward to remain relevant is to be able to create

meaningful conversation with all stakeholders & evolve a process and see to it getting implemented.





Amazing Maharashtra





Adding life to life

Dr. Kishore Nimkhedkar, Physician

*“We are much more than just doctors and
had to also look after the needs of the community,”*

Dr. Kishore Nimkhedkar is a pole bearer of the medical sciences in the UAE. He is an example for every medical practitioner who aims to join the fast-paced life of the Gulf, as his journey is that of professional success and service to the community.

Kishore completed his schooling and medical training in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. He started working at a medical college in the same city and worked as a demonstrator in the medicine and psychiatry department.

Afterwards, Kishore started his corporate career working as a consultant and a medical officer for Bharat Heavy Electricals in Haridwar.

Following his strong work ethic, Kishore was offered an opportunity to work in Libya. He took the job and worked varied roles for six years in the medical department for a medical college. Kishore's wife joined him on this journey to Africa and took a job as a gynecologist.



“ Working for community is always a great satisfaction”.

After some time, Kishore changed fields and switched to cardiology. “Being a doctor is of a lot of importance in Libya. “We are much more than just doctors and had to also look after the needs of the community,” added Kishore as he explained how his African life changed his perspective of the medical field as he learned to care more about the people in the community.

Starting his professional life in the UAE, Kishore opened his own medical facility.

Initially, he was not keen on the prospect of moving to the Gulf, but he adds that the decision to move was one of the best he made in his life.

Move to the UAE, did not falter Kishore’s journey of public welfare as he worked for all communities specially Maharashtra and lead many initiatives For his efforts, he is also awarded many times by many community members.





“Be honest, be hard-working, and find out who you are.”

Professional achievements aside, Kishore is also an example for his family. He is an adored father and a husband. His son Mehar Nimkhedkar followed in his footsteps to start his own venture and is now a proud owner of an IT consultancy firm in Dubai.

After being asked about the magic mantra that keeps him going, Kishore says he believes in hard work and that there is no replacement for it and that whatever people do in their life, they should do it with utmost sincerity; “Be honest, be hard-working, and find out who you are.”





Paving path to success

DR. ATUL AUNDHEKAR, Group CEO, Avivo Group



“Indian doctors are in high demand worldwide, and this is also true for the Middle East,”

Success greets those who work towards it with sincerity. Dr. Atul Aundhekar’s dreams were far fetched. Aiming for the sky, he started shooting stars first, exemplifying the power of planning every move properly.



Not many would know but Dr. Atul already had his own medical practice setup when he was completing his post-graduation. He later worked in the intensive care unit of a renowned hospital in Mumbai and this is where he got the idea to move to the UAE. “I looked after a lot of Arab patients, and one day I discussed the same with my wife. I asked her that we are taking care of people from the Middle East anyway, so why don’t we just move there?” he explained.

Following this thought, Dr. Atul Anant Aundhekar and his wife Dr. Seema Atul Aundhekar moved from Mumbai to Saudi Arabia, to Oman, and then to the UAE, to better their lives and careers.





Both of Dr. Atul's parents were also doctors and had also moved to a new place searching for greener pastures. Dr. Atul adds that his parents were the early life mentors who guided him towards joining the medical field.

Having lost his father at the age of 11, he adds that he never felt that he missed out on much, "I was doing well at school and was always a topper in my class," he added.

Following his parent's footsteps, Dr. Atul decided to venture to new grounds, to better his career. "Indian doctors are in high demand worldwide, and this is also true for the Middle East," he commented. Dr. Atul along with his wife, Dr. Seema, took up an assignment of two years in Al Khuwair, Muscat, Oman, where he helped set up a clinic for his Omani sponsor.

Later, Dr. Atul moved to Al Quoz, Dubai, where he worked with renowned group and set up a clinic. "I always felt that a doctor could manage doctors better because they understand the specific medical issues," said Dr. Atul, who later completed his MBA with the same thought in mind.

He earned two dean's list medals but didn't let his academic success change his humble nature, "I think that was a fluke. Even India won the 1983 cricket world cup," he added. Dr. Atul comments that his wife Dr. Seema is the family's backbone who has kept them together through thick and thin. She is also in the medical field and has been working as a general practitioner in the UAE for 16 years. Seema is originally from the tropical city of Kerala but considers herself a true Mumbaite at heart.





“A true leader is a person who deals with unorganized chaos & converts it to organized chaos to pave the way of success”

The initial few years in the new country were challenging for the doctor duo, but they didn’t let it waver their will for success. “A challenge provides you with an opportunity to be creative to understand what else we can do to overcome it,” added Dr. Atul.

They have two son Advay Atul and Anay Atul, both are students at the

moments, also following their family path with commitment and dedication.

He also adds that every job has challenges, but how a person overcomes those challenges is what decides the future outcome. Today, Dr. Atul is a Group CEO at the Avivo Group. He did his best to jump over the hurdles life threw at him and came out as a champion at the end.





Amazing Maharashtra



Plastic Surgeon

with on 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.





The Healthy, wealthy & wise

RIAZ KHAN - CEO at International Modern Hospital

*"Never give up your hope,
because that is the only thing which is purely yours"*



A modern-day business exemplar, Riaz is a seasoned leader with an ever-expanding work experience having contributed immensely to the growth of the Indian healthcare industry in the region. Having lead multiple business transformations, including some prestigious mergers, acquisitions and JCI accredited

initiatives, he has successfully unlocked the key to his success and that of many others who grew along with him. With brands like Prime Healthcare Group and Emirates Healthcare Group in his kitty, who would believe that until a few years ago, the only thing he thought of was sports!

“Corporate ladder can only be climbed with discipline and determination”.



Hailing from Nagpur, Riaz Khan was part of a family of avid sportsmen. His father worked in the Railway Department of India was a national-level hockey player and so was his uncle. Riaz, too, engaged in multiple sports and was also actively involved in theater during his days in college. Starting his career early on, Riaz decided to put the world of sports on the back burner and started his journey in sales in 1982. After six years in sales, he decided to take a sabbatical to expand his professional outlook. Afterwards, he decided to join the world of hospital management.

At the age of 30, Riaz started working in a small nursing home as an administrator. This was where he conceptualized the first corporate hospital in Nagpur. “It was the most satisfying

project of my life as it was my first big project,” added Riaz. Later, he was hired by the Apollo Group, where he looked after projects in India and Tanzania. His last assignment with Apollo was in Orissa, where he decided to stay put to establish a chain of hospitals.

After his successful stint in Orissa, where he worked for eight years, Riaz got an opportunity in Dubai and was hired as a project consultant by Prime Healthcare Group for their new assignment.

With sheer dedication and unique insights, Riaz managed to make the new project profitable within one year. This led to him being headhunted by the Emirates Healthcare Group,

where he worked in the merger and acquisition division, where by the end of two years, Riaz was already managing 32 entities for the group. In 2017, he took the role of CEO with International Modern Hospital on its turnaround and expansion projects. He was in the center of action, leading at the front during Covid 19 first wave working closely with Dubai Health Authority. He is currently working as Director- Hospital Operations with Pure Health Group overseeing the operations of 5 Hospitals established by Ministry of Presidential Affairs in Northern Emirates.

“UAE rulers are too visionary as what they have done and planned is very futuristic”

Reflecting back on his life in UAE, Riaz added that growth is a two-way street, and people who have come to the UAE have received as much, if not more, of what they have contributed. Further explaining the role of the Asian community in the country, Riaz said: “The leaders of this great country have acknowledged it time and again that the Asian community has contributed immensely in the growth of this nation.” He also adds that Indians, in particular, have attributed to almost every critical sector in the UAE; “We have been great contributors. Be it in education, healthcare, or commerce, we have participated and have grown ourselves.”

Professionally, Riaz was never bound by any personal limits. “My passion has always been to

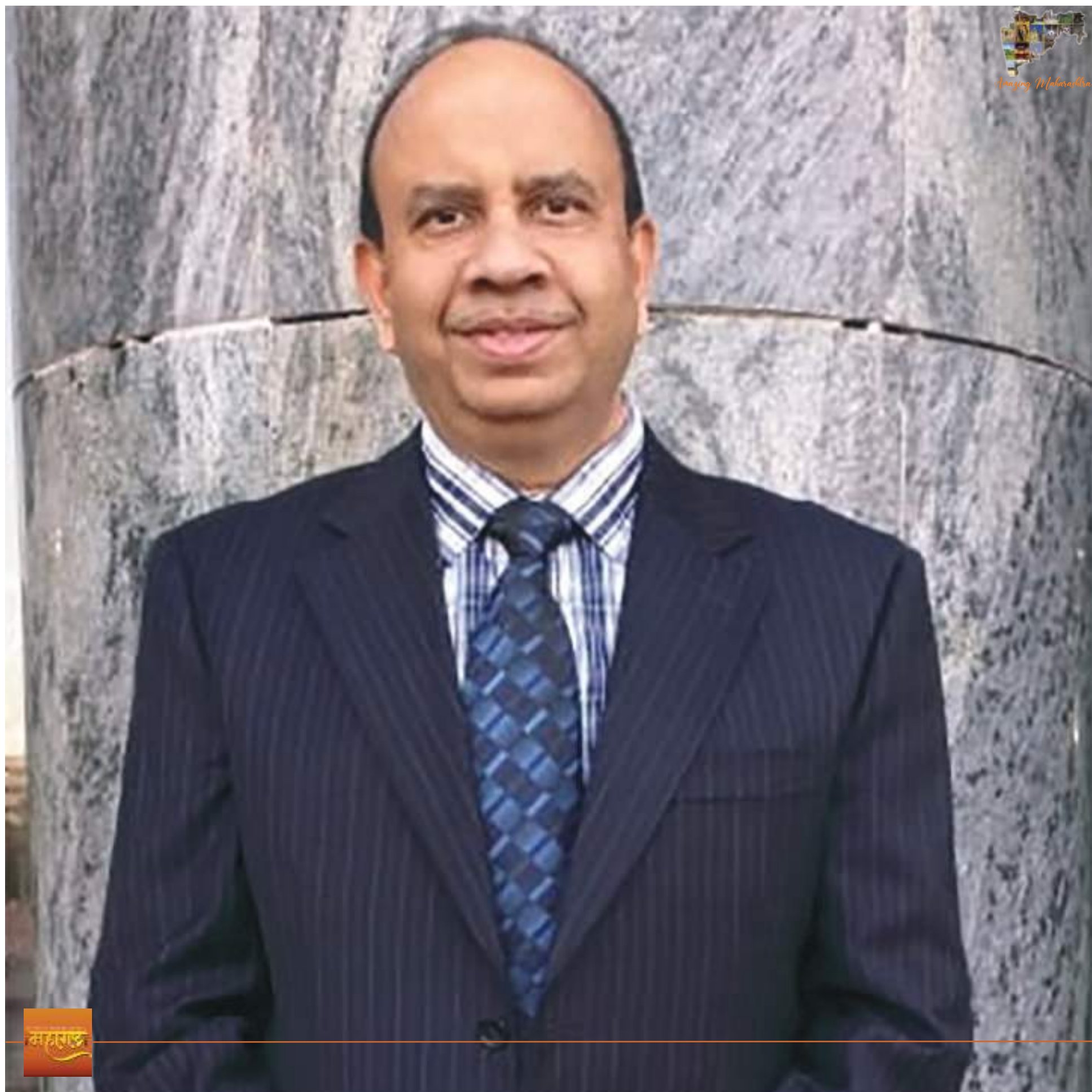
work on something more than what I feel I am capable of doing,” explained Riaz. He adds that his search for new challenges is the main reason why he never settled in his professional career. “I never stopped learning. In my career of 38 years, I have taken up numerous courses to better myself,” explained Riaz, as he signified the role of constant learning and how it helped him better himself every step of the way.

His wife Dr. Saba Khan born in Darwah, PHD from Nagpur in Urdu literature. Came from very humble background.

Their son and daughter-in-law are both Doctors working in Mumbai with reputed organizations. Dr. Aseem Khan is an orthopedic surgeon

working as Associate professor who besides studies loves cooking and Dr. Zeba works as a Histopathologist, Dr. Saba said proudly.







Looking beyond the horizon

AMRUT MARATHEY, Ex-IT Advisor -ADNOC Distribution

“When my parent took me to my first school for admission, they put me in the 2nd grade directly. I didn’t do KG or 1st grade.”

An academic genius, serial entrepreneur, and community leader; these are some of the titles that best describe Amrut Marathey. From studying at the renowned Indian Institute of Technology to leaving his professional footprint in the UAE, Amrut is a real example of visionary thinking and dedicated Execution.

Amrut spent his childhood in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, where his father worked as Finance Manager in Bhilai Steel Plant. What may seem like an ordinary life to many was anything but; “When my parent took me to

my first school for admission, they put me in the 2nd grade directly. I didn’t do KG or 1st grade, and this is how I am two years younger than most of my IIT classmates.” He added that the move to the esteemed Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, was very ungracious initially. He knew no one in Mumbai and did not even know how to converse in English. However, determined to overcome any obstacle, Amrut became a sincere student, and to everyone’s surprise, he topped the first semester exams and broke all previous academic records.



“I was only 16 years old. The youngest in my batch. My brother came all the way from my hometown to know about the exam result and was shell shocked when my professors broke the news to him,” said Amrut with pride. Past his college life, Amrut landed his first job with Tata Motors in Pune, following which he moved to Abu Dhabi, UAE, to work for ADNOC Distribution. Today, he has his own consultancy business in the UAE.

Like many Asians who travel to the UAE in search of a better life, Amrut, too, believes that the economic hub is full of dreams for people who are willing to work hard. “We have got everything here, high-quality life, professional respect, safety and security and not to mention, the highest level of decency in everything around us,” comments

Amrut. He also added that to prove himself in a new environment and to win over people and circumstances was quite a challenge. “Life is like the card game “Bridge” where every deal or hand is new, it won’t repeat in your lifetime. So it is a must that we play the hand we are dealt,” explained Amrut after being asked about what kept him going all these years.

Helping the community grow, as a collective unit has been one area where Amrut has spent a significant chunk of his business and social life working. He worked as a core member of IDEA (Innovative Development Center for Educational Aptitude), a non-profit organization with a mission to offer support to the student community by developing their interests, talents, and creativity through various programs.

“We have got everything here, high-quality life, professional respect, safety and security and not to mention, the highest level of decency in everything around us,”



Being a community leader, Amrut's family also holds him in high regard. His wife Kirti who is from Nagpur, she is very contented and much focused in family values.

"Our parents are like friend, mentor, and guide. From guiding us throughout our lives as well as always giving us a listening ear to all our issues, dad has always been there for us," added Mrudul and Monica, Amrut's daughters.

For the future generations to come Amrut shared that we need to be fair to everyone around us, even if some of them are not as good to us; "Eventually, they will change. This will create positive energy around you. Negativity can only weaken you and society."





It all starts *with a dream*

ATUL VAIDYA - CEO -Procal

*“Remain true to yourself, your values and people in your life,
because success is not built alone.”*



“Dreams don't work unless you take action”. The surest way to make your dreams come true is to live them. Atul Vaidya who hails from the Parbhani district from Maharashtra

always dreamt to be a businessman, even as a child. Besides an entrepreneurial spirit, he always brings with him his innocence, values, and expertise to the table.



“Rulers of UAE are very visionary as what they have done and planned is very futuristic”



Fondly recalling his childhood days, he says, they were the best times of his life. The will to be a businessman and a leader was probably bestowed to him by his father who was a doctor and set up his own hospital.

“In throughout journey of my carrier my family has always stood behind for good and hard moments in developing my business and specially my Aai and Baba who always lives with their ethics &

principle’s which they both has taught to us since childhood.

However, his maternal uncles were his real source of inspiration. Right from a very young age, he has always looked up to his uncles who inspired and helped him to set up his business. With the help of his uncle, he moved to Deira, Dubai, and acquired some work experience before setting up his own venture. His expertise lay in the oil industry extending to the general and service industry.

His determination, perseverance to create something of his own, and his hard work have led him to success. He owes a major part of his progress to his wife Amruta who has been his friend, confidant, coach, and business partner. As

per Atul, he is what he is today due to the support and love of his wife.



Amruta too is extremely happy to be a part of Atul's success story. Even though it wasn't easy for someone from an entirely educational background to learn the basics of computers, Amruta managed to ace it all.

With her M.Sc in Physics, she was focused on learning all aspects of a business and soon learned the prerequisites of quality, calibration, purchase, and accounting. It is their joint efforts that have helped the business flourish and prosper. Their kids Anvay and Ameya, bring them immense joy and they are one happy family.

They both maintain their gratitude to the UAE government for extending their arm of support

and guidance to expats like them. They are all praises for the country they currently live in and Atul confirms that this is what he has always wanted.

He considers himself among the lucky few who are able to accomplish what they dream of. He does intend to take a small break only for himself where he wants to reflect and rejuvenate and bring more ideas for his business.

As a leader, risk-taker and someone who is extremely diligent when it comes to working, Atul offers a little piece of advice to today's generation, "remain true to yourself, your values and people in your life, because success is not built alone."



"Dreams don't work unless you take action".



Standing *out of the crowd*

CHIRANTAN JOSHI , Co-founder E-Movers Group, National Director at CorporateConnections,
Vice President GMBF



Chirantan Joshi belongs to a family of renowned politicians. He has witnessed firsthand what it is like to have authority, but instead of taking the easier route of living off his last name, he always dreamt of starting his own thing. “My uncle Mr Sudheer Joshi was the Education and Revenue Minister and I am also related to the past Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Manohar Joshi. Both of them were people of power, but at the same time, they were the most grounded people you can imagine.

One thing that I learned from them is that achievements do not exactly describe a person. Rather, a person’s values dictates what he is going to achieve,” said Chirantan as he recalled that he aimed to be a leader since his childhood and wanted to be a visionary who could guide people towards a unified goal.

Despite growing up in a household that was always lit up with media attention, Chirantan never desired any of it. He wanted to live life on his own terms.



After completing his engineering and getting his MBA from Symbiosis, Pune, Chirantan got a job in Dubai, UAE. “I wanted to have my own business, but I wasn’t sure of when or how, and that is why I took a job,” added Chirantan as he went on to describe his first job where he worked as a sales executive in a furniture company for five and a half years.

Being a salesman is no easy task; he realized this early on and started working on his craft. Chirantan had to deal with people from different age groups and nationalities, which ultimately helped him learn the art of communication.

“That job got me in touch with people from all walks of life and gave me the exposure I needed in those initial years of my career,” said Chirantan as he recalled vivid memories from his first job that eventually motivated him to start his own business.





After gaining some viable work experience and brushing up on his interpersonal skills, Chirantan followed up on his dream and launched his first company - E-Movers.

He adds that starting anything new in a new place is a daunting task. Like many Indian expats who contribute to the UAE's economy, he too was helped by the UAE Government

and its business-friendly policies. Chirantan's wife, Anagha Joshi works with E-Movers. She is an artist and has designed E-Movers logo when he started the company. They have a son Anvay, who loves participating in debates and theatre.

Chirantan explains that he focused on the most humane aspect of our life to achieve success -

communication, "God has given us only one tool to get things done and to inspire, and that is communication."

He explained that the lack of proper communication is why most projects fail, and If we dig deeper and watch how we convey our message, we can get anything done.



"God has given us only one tool to get things done and to inspire, and that is communication."



Turning roadblocks into milestones

DILAWAR DALWAI, Founder & C.E.O · Al Mahir Printing



“Small steps lead to big transformations”

Someone once said: “Small steps lead to big transformations”, and Dilawar Dalwai made it come true. With his roots in Chiplun and being born and brought up in Nashik, his spirit is that of a true Maratha warrior. Struggles often tend to break a person but Dilawar found his courage in them. His never give up attitude is what helped him carve a niche for himself across oceans.

Social networking may seem like something that has evolved

in recent times but it has existed across centuries. It is this ability to build ties and interact with people that led to Dilawar setting up his consultancy in Nashik back then.

From handling a personal loss to leaving his Chartered Accountancy midway and setting up a consultancy firm, can be devastating to many, however Dilawar stood strong to the winds of time. He finally found his golden key to success after almost a decade of working in Dubai.

There is something about childhood that can never be replaced and Dilawar doesn't wish to swap it either. He recalls his childhood fondly and the scarcity of space or funds, can never wipe away the fond memories which he intends to preserve for life. Honesty and loyalty can get you past everything and can never land you into any trouble reaffirms Dalwai.

His people are of utmost importance to him and he has upheld all everyone he has associated

despite the changing seasons of life. He believes in taking care of his people on his own before someone else decides to do so. "Everyone you work with must be given the same respect and importance as a family", says Dalwai and this has always helped him fight all odds and attain success.

A person whose life has been nothing short of a roller coaster ride draws his inspiration from self-belief. He is of the opinion that nothing

should dampen your spirit and advises everyone to never go down the path of negativity.

Self-confidence and communication help you cover every challenging situation and Dilawar has constantly encouraged others to pursue their dreams like a true leader.

The journey from an employee to a businessman hasn't been an easy one but he has always strived to deliver his very best.

"Everyone you work with must be given the same respect and importance as a family"





His wife Suraiya and his daughters Reema and Reeda, believe in giving back to the society just like him and together they are a strong knit team.

While he wishes to spend more time with his friends, he never misses out on an opportunity to soak up knowledge from a book. "I really miss my days with my friends and colleagues back in India", says Dilawar often and is glad that his daughter Reema has incorporated the Indian values along with her international education.

She seems to be mightily impressed by the old school of charm. She finds it extremely fulfilling

to see how life comes a full circle in whatever aspect you work on. From switching over to highly technological product supplies to coming back to look for sustainability, the construction industry has evolved massively, confirms Reema.

The growth of a desert into a beautiful concrete jungle is the second thing that amazes her and she is extremely proud at how the UAE has been a major contributor in career advancement. From being the only one in her family to pursue Science to looking to create her mark in the field of Construction Project Management, Reema believes in breaking all barriers. Dilawar other

daughter Reeda stays in Saudi Arabia.

Innovation, Smartness, and Sustainability is the key to growth for any business. This is the key driving force for the entire family that believes humility paves way for bigger things always and the same message he gives it to society as an ending note.

"I really miss my days with my friends and colleagues back in India"



The strength of unity

LAVLESH SUBHASH RAUT, M.D. - Olympic Swimming Pools Installation LLC
 Founder & CEO - SGR Sports Academy
 Founder - HandSpun Organics Pvt. Ltd
 Director - NatureHood Farmers Producer Company Ltd.



We are often told to count our blessings and not our problems. Lavlesh Subhash Raut, whose values are central to everything he is, has always focused on the positives rather than the negatives. Coming from a small Tehsil named Deoli, in Wardha District, Lavlesh has always stuck to his roots and has always found comfort in his people.

He derives his strength and courage from the values his father & mother instilled in him and his elder brother at

a very young age. His father, who was employed with the government as an irrigation dept., always had a great bond politically, and socially with everyone around them. His mother Kokila was teacher with very good academics in her carrier.

To Lavlesh, the values of compassion, forgiveness, selflessness, patience, and contentment, will always be timeless and powerful. It is the progressive nature of his parents that have always motivated him to keep going and to take life as it comes.



A degree in chemical engineering and a short course in piping from IIT Mumbai, couldn't stop his entrepreneurial spirit from flourishing. Having acquired a job in Dubai with the help of a friend, he decided to give it a try. With dreams of always returning to his motherland, little did Lavlesh know that it would be in Dubai where he would grow both professionally and personally.

Despite the recession in Dubai, he continued working diligently and wholeheartedly. Even when he had to return to India for a few years, he ensured that he continued to add value and worth to his life by working with an NGO that was into the Khadi business. Through his hard work, honesty, and passion, he helped the business grow. Eventually, it was time for him to move back to Dubai and it was his desire to start something of his own, that brought him back to the country where he started his journey. He

started working with the swimming pool and landscape industry and has never looked back.

Taking risks and resolving challenges is something that comes naturally to him. Going beyond the obvious and exploring new avenues has never overwhelmed him.

This ability of his to innovate and provide unhindered service led him to establish a connection with the captain cool, Ms. Dhoni. While he was doing his best to excel in the construction industry in Dubai, along with help from his elder brother Mangesh Subhash Raut, he was able to add value to the field of sports as well. They set up the India's first residential cricket academy in association with M.S. Dhoni, in Nagpur, Maharashtra, where players from US, UK, UAE and all states of India is taking cricketing education. It's his straight forwardness

and ability to overcome challenges that have helped him excel in life.

Even though the most difficult times in his life, one being his father's illness, he found love and strength in his family. Looking at life, as a glass half full, he confirms that difficult times always help to strengthen relationships. His mother Smt. Kokila Sbhash Raut is the biggest strength and huge pillar of life. In our hard time and in absence of father, she is fatherly to us by all means and always guide us on every stage of life.





His wife Seema who is Chairperson of SGR Foundation, a family NGO is promoting women's cricket by supporting under privilege girls players to achieve their dreams in cricket. Seema always been his pillar of strength and his kids Dhruvi and Abhinav are his lifelines.

Life has been nothing short of a rollercoaster ride for Lavlesh however, with his family at his side and his strong belief in his values, he confirms that he has enjoyed every moment of it. Lavlesh reminisces about his childhood days and fondly

recalls the friendships he has built over years. Respecting people and their time is of utmost importance to him. While his wife Seema enjoys painting, Lavlesh loves to spend time catching up on his sleep. Despite meeting people of different stature day in and day out, they together believe in the power of education, taking life as it comes and giving it your hundred percent.

Their kids drawing inspiration from their parents and grandparents are always eager to witness the agricultural life back in Wardha. With a degree in

chemical engineering, working in the construction industry, and interests lying in agriculture and sports, Lavlesh, indeed has miles to go before he decides to take a break.

His land, his parents, his family, friends comes above everything else and he is of the opinion that it should be the same for everyone. Family is one of nature's best masterpieces, concludes Lavlesh.





Amazing Maharashtra



The Ignited Mind

RAHUL DURAGKAR, Managing Director & Partner at Emitech Technical Services

*“when you build an important mansion,
you place every brick carefully and make sure you pay attention to every detail”*



At some point in our lives, we always question the real meaning of success. After his Graduation in Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology Maharashtra, that's exactly what Rahul Duragkar did when he had completed close to 12 years in his job in Nagpur. As someone who has always been aspirational and far-sighted, Rahul knew he had to create a new road

map to success and moved to Dubai. Coming from a humble background and being raised single-handedly by his mother Mrs. Vrinda Duragkar after his father's demise, Rahul laid a lot of importance on hard work and patience. He knew that to go ahead in life, he needs to give it all and never let his confidence waiver. Thus, began his endearing journey of growth.



Once Rahul reached Dubai, he was employed for six years before he decided to do something of his own. Before he took the leap of faith, Rahul knew it was important to study the market, analyze the growth trends, accumulate enough experience, and build great relationships with people. It was his knowledge, experience, and people management skills that helps him explore the world of entrepreneurship easily and thereafter in 2011 founded Emitech Technical Services LLC

Just as in when you build an important mansion, you place every brick carefully and make sure you pay attention to every detail. Similarly, Rahul's business progressed and grew multifold. He ensured that he took a strategic approach to everything. His people have always been his biggest strength and are of the opinion that adding value to people's lives is what a leader should always be capable of.

Even during the recession and during the Pandemic, Rahul and his team have always taken

a practical approach. The hardships have not deterred their ambitions and desire to succeed. Through effective planning, utilization of resources and adapting to new ways of working, they have always helped the business thrive.

Leadership comes naturally to Rahul and he always provided clarity to his colleagues, created opportunities for people from all walks of life, and supported them in every way possible. His people have always delivered their best performance given the constant encouragement they have received from him.



Rahul loves the diversity of people in Dubai and has very high regards for the visionary rulers of the country. Dubai is his home away from home as here, everyone is treated with respect, shown a direction, and always motivated to perform to their maximum caliber.





“trying to strike a balance between different chakras of life which include career, finance, personal, health, wellness, and parenting. ”

Besides being thankful for the many opportunities Dubai has given him, Rahul owes part of his success to his wife's, Rinki's support and contribution to the business.



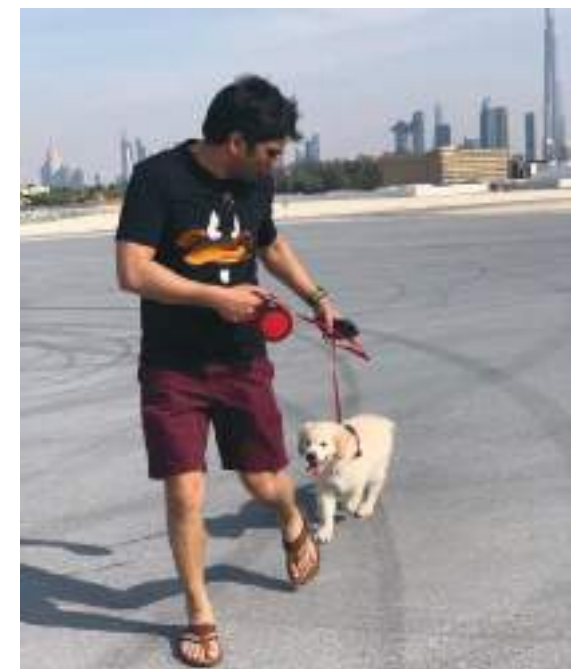
He is proud of how Rinki flawlessly strikes a balance between being an artist, a homemaker, a professional, and a parent. They have 2 Children Srishti studying in USA and Shaurya in class 8. Though Rahul is happy with how life has progressed over the years, he does want to be a guide and coach to people, especially budding entrepreneurs.

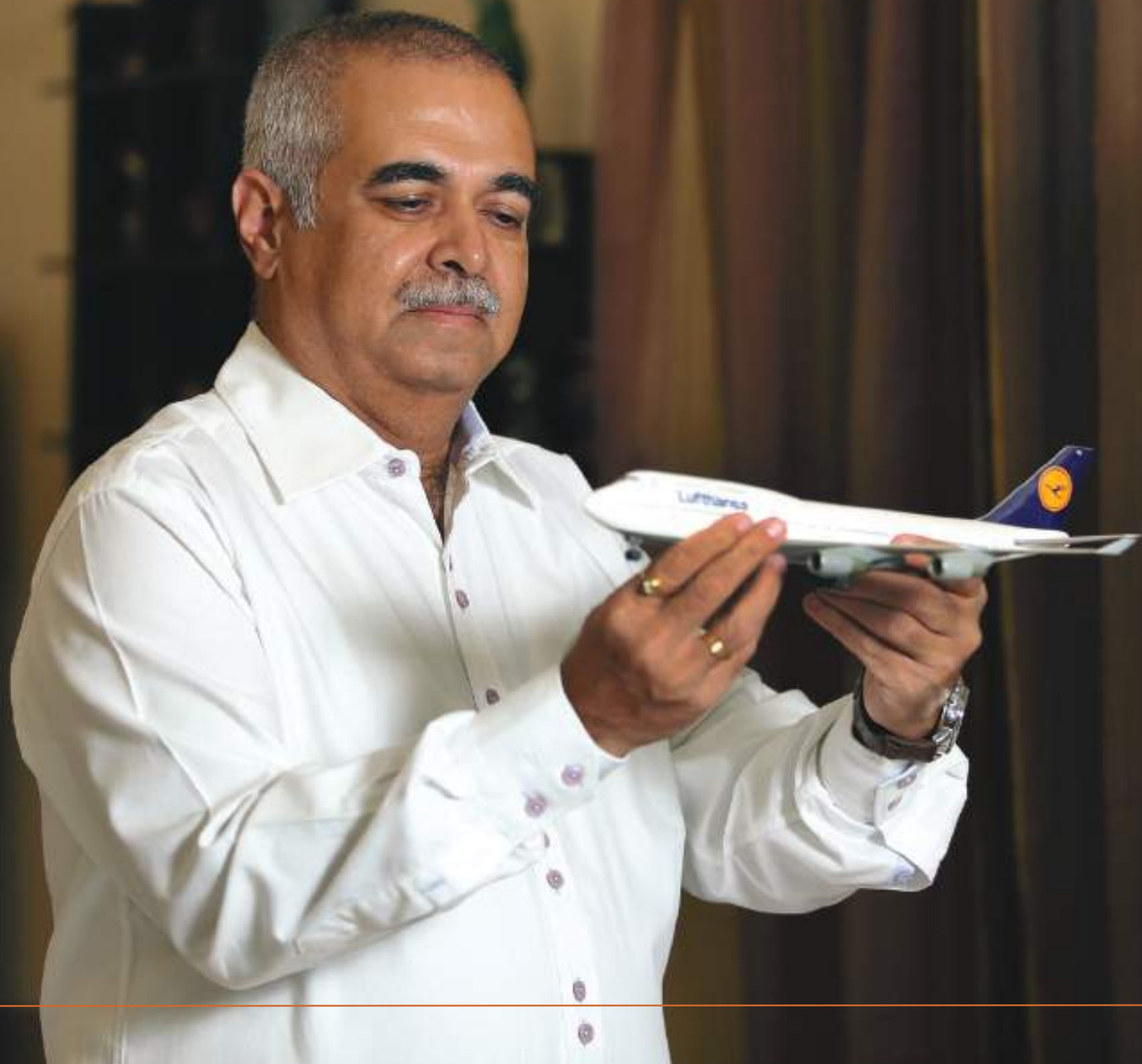
Just like the people of Maharashtra, Rahul Duragker is hard-working, diligent, full of perseverance, and a quick thinker. Thinking fondly about his homeland, he advises everyone to blend these qualities with the growth in technology to achieve bigger things.

One shouldn't be stuck to conventional methods of growth and explore different options in one career. On a personal front, Rahul is trying to strike a balance between different chakras of life which include career, finance, personal, health, wellness, and parenting.

He enjoys his fitness regime, reading books, learning from world leaders, playing actual sports vs virtual sports, and above all spending

time with his two kids and his pet. He is a firm believer in being happy from within and creating one's own unique identity responsibly and practically. Never let challenges or risks push down because failures are part of the success and nothing is impossible to achieve, concludes Rahul.





Exploring *the brighter world*

RAHUL PRADHAN, Strategy Advisor - Vacation Krafters



“Travel has kool stories”

“Traveling – It leaves you speechless then turns you into a storyteller” – Ibn Battuta.

As a seasoned travel industry expert and an avid traveler, Rahul believes in creating unique experiences – from surprising a honeymoon couple with a cake on the plane, to taking bankers on Harley’s for team building activities, to so much more – all of which is still spoken about with the same

color as if they just experienced it. As Rahul likes to quip, travel gives you cool stories.

Taking a step back into his early days, Rahul recollects how he learnt from his parents the importance of patience and that big things always start small. His father’s experience in procurement and his mother’s lessons as a teacher helped him imbibe transparency and accountability as key values in his life.

“Everyone you work with must be given the same respect and importance as a family”



His passion for the travel and adventure goes back to his boyhood days of climbing the forts of Maharashtra. This also inspired him to pursue his Bachelors in History. He also mastered the German language, all of this setting him for a long, successful career in the hospitality industry.

They say every successful man has a strong and passionate lady behind him. This is as true as it can get in the case of Rahul who found in his wife Ruchi, a best friend, confidant, and his biggest supporter. She brings with her deep knowledge from across industries in customer and product experience having worked for brands such as Hilton, Emirates and First Abu Dhabi Bank.

She later helped inspire the set-up of Vacation Krafters and leads Operations & Marketing.

Education is not limited to books and success does not always follow a route. The second-generation Pradhan's clearly reflect this in the career choices they have made. With a double major in accounting and finance his son is all set to carve a niche for himself just like his father.

His daughter intends to add a few more colors of innovation to this world and is currently pursuing strategic design management. With his parents back in India, he likes playing the role of a brother to his sister and family always comes first.

Contentment is the foundation to happiness and the joy one derives from fulfilling desires can never be permanent. Complacency has never been his cup of tea and he began exploring different options to not just help his business but others as well. The world craves for something different and unique and the mere ability to add joy to someone else's life is something that cannot be measured in value. This simple thought led to building a brand that provides hand-crafted holiday experiences that become memories one always wants to hold onto.

His pursuit of happiness led him to turn his vision into reality when he and his wife established Vacation Krafters.



Even during the Pandemic his never give up attitude is what kept him going and helped him bounce back. It is the deep understanding of the industry, vast global connections and just pure passion that supplemented him to connect people across continents during the heights of the pandemic.

Right from tapping into idea of agri-tourism to exploring travel education, and managing wedding events, he intends to create new avenues for his third child, which is his business.

When you truly love something the time of the day is never a deciding factor. Rahul, his family, and his team of people have continuously

merged day and night to ensure business stays steady and people continue having amazing experiences. Being the optimist that he is, he looks forward to all the opportunities that the coming year will bring.

“Believe in yourself and garner enough support, combine your heart and mind, and it will all fall into place”, concludes Rahul.

“The world craves for something different and unique and the mere ability to add joy to someone else’s life is something that cannot be measured in value.”







Be unique, *be different*

RAVI CHITNIS - Managing Director, Beta Consultants



Knowledge is power, is a saying we've all heard time and again. But Ravi Chitnis seems to have implemented it in his life. Founder of Beta Consultants, a renowned consulting firm in Dubai, Ravi has climbed the ladder of success with much determination and effort.

Hailing from the small town of Akola, Ravi grew up

mostly in Mumbai. He is the youngest in the family after three elder siblings, one sister being a doctor, the other being a microbiologist and a brother who's an electrical and marine engineer. His family held education as top priority which is what made him a qualified Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant.



“I believe a person is a perpetual learner as one never stops learning in life,”

Soon he secured himself a job at AF Ferguson and Company but little did he know that in a year's time, his fate was about to take a massive turn. Back then, the Middle East was an upcoming economy with many job opportunities. In order to try something new, Ravi too followed suit and landed in the UAE in the year 1977. He joined the prestigious Ratan S Mama & Co, later rebranded as PKF, an audit and business advisory firm.

Ravi lead a professionally satisfying 30 years in PKF. Partnering with the Free Zones for attracting investments in UAE, he assisted more than 1000 business houses to set up businesses in UAE,

some of them have become significant names in the region. “It was gratifying to persuade and assist large diamonders and shareholders from Antwerp to set up their businesses in Dubai”, says Ravi.

Taking the big leap of faith towards entrepreneurship, he founded Beta Consultants in 2006, which provides a range of consultancy services to clients from the Middle East and other international markets. In Ravi's opinion: “It has been a very satisfying and enriching journey so far with interaction with people from varied nationalities and cultures. It also leaves one with a satisfying feel when you are involved in and

contribute to the growth of diverse businesses.”

As they say, behind every successful man is a strong supportive woman, in Ravi's life, that role has been played by his wife Asha. A former science graduate, Asha is a teacher by profession and also helps Ravi out with his official requirements. They are blessed with two daughters, Apurva who is a CPA and CFA, currently serving as the Vice President Corporate Finance with Safanad Ltd, DIFC, Dubai, and Kasturi who is a Finance graduate, working as the Director of Wealth Management Compliance with Standard Chartered Bank, Mumbai.



Despite all the success that Ravi has attained, he doesn't take complete credit for the same and owes a lot to his ever learning attitude. "I believe a person is a perpetual learner as one never stops learning in life," adds Ravi. In-fact, Ravi mentions that if given a chance, he would have loved to learn ancient Vedic scriptures at an early age. During his free time, he loves to read, attend opera shows and enjoys gardening. He believes that these hobbies help him balance professional and personal life better.

Often people who achieve a comfortable position stop taking risks but Ravi's never give up attitude and willingness to push the doors of success irrespective of which shape and form they come in is truly inspiring. But he doesn't believe in keeping it all to himself. A firm believer in giving back to the society, Ravi shares that one needs to teach by example and for that he needs to become that example first. Indeed Ravi, through his hard work and perseverance, has left a legacy for generations to take inspiration from.

*"Its not only my business
but my belief that disciplined life
add value to life"*





Paving *his own pitch*

SUDHAKAR SHETTY, Managing Director at Maxtalent Global Sports

“If you want to do something, then don’t wait for the approval of others. Just do it.” This is the philosophy Sudhakar Shetty lives by. He is a teaching extraordinaire who decided to follow his passion and didn’t look back.

Growing up in a strict household, Sudhakar decided to tend to his needs himself and got many odd jobs to fulfill his sports passion. He describes that lack of money in his childhood and his decision to do any job

that came his way were the factors that shaped his work ethic. During his school days, he was an avid sportsman and participated in every sport he could; “cricket, football, hockey, I played whatever was there and took part in many competitions.” Throughout his life, Sudhakar has been associated with esteemed educational institutes. He was a student at the coveted St. Xavier’s High School and later did his B.COM. from the Chartered Accountant factory of India - Narsee Monjee College of Commerce and Economics.





“Whatever I am in life, my school has played a massive role in it,”

Being part of a good school does not mean that a person is doing well academically. Struggling to keep up with his studies, Sudhakar was held back in 9th grade. Many would take this set back negatively, but for Sudhakar, it was a turning point in his life, which made him gain a bit more perspective about his future. “Whatever I am in life, my school has played a massive role in it,” added Sudhakar.

Sudhakar took up many jobs during his school and college days, but his first full-time job was with the prestigious Parle Products. He was content with his life for some years, but overtime Sudhakar found himself questioning his worth and questioned whether he was only known because of the company he worked in.

He knew that his association with a prestigious brand added value to his character, but he didn’t want that aspect to be the only discerning aspect of his life.

Following this train of thought, he decided to make a name for himself. He dedicated himself to proving his worth, and this journey led him to the prosperous grounds of the UAE.

Making his decision to quit a big name company to find his calling led Sudhakar back to his passion for sports. Currently, Sudhakar is working as a Managing Director at Maxtalent Global Sports in the UAE, where he is helping aspiring athletes to reach their true potential.



Being true to the life of sports, Sudhakar also instilled a sense of discipline in his family.

Sudhakar's sons Siddhartha and Someresh also mention that their dad's love for sports helped them become disciplined in life as his teachings were instilled in them from the start. "We were always better at most things at school cause we had a disciplined lifestyle," they added.

Anima Shetty, Sudhakar's wife, adds that she is

proud of his husband and his efforts. Just like her husband, she too is a person of passion. She follows her passion and gets things done regardless of what people may think.

Professional and family life aside, Sudhakar is also actively engaged in community service and truly believes in the practice of giving back to society. He has led many initiatives in the UAE and also in India. With his organization, he helped 30 children from a small village in

Maharashtra named Dugad. With his help, those 30 kids got to escape the vicious cycle of poverty and are finding their own path to success.

As his message to the world, Sudhakar wants people to take up any sport of their liking to get some daily exercise. He believes that people neglect their physical health and says that it is something that ultimately decides their life; "live for 60 years but live good, rather than live for 100 years but suffer," he adds.





Amazing Maharashtra





The sound of soul

SAGAR PATIL Music Composer, Multi-Instrumentalist, Handpan Player &
Founder of Trivikram Dhol Tasha Pathak Dubai



“discovered a software that was meant to produce music”

Music is the universal language of mankind and once music enters your soul, it transforms you. The journey of Sagar Patil speaks volumes about what music can bring to your life. From banging kitchen utensils as a toddler to being handed a Bongo and moving onto set up the first-ever Dhol Tasha Pathak in

Dubai, UAE, his success story is bound to make you dance/wonder. Bringing Maharashtra's Folk Music of Dhol Tasha to a country that was new to the concept was completely unimaginable but it was Sagar's penchant for music that helped him turn his dreams into reality.



“Opportunities are like sunrise as they come every day”

As a student in Mumbai, Sagar always had to sideline his love for music and choose studies because our society always lays more emphasis on education than talent. With an earnest desire to pursue his love for music, besides pursuing his education, Sagar would often visit festivals or celebrations just to observe how the music was being played. While his friends played and danced at Navratri and Ganesh festival, he silently observed each musician and would try to replicate the same. Soon he got the opportunity to play the drums in school and college events.

They say when you truly desire something, the entire universe conspires in helping you achieve it and it turned out to be true for Sagar as well.

As luck would have it, while pursuing his diploma in computer science, he got the opportunity to get a computer home. This was only the beginning of bigger things. Sagar discovered a software that was meant to produce music, after spending sleepless nights for a month researching on this software, Sagar began to compose his own music. His efforts

eventually paid off and soon started getting local / international commercial assignments to compose music.

Opportunities are like sunrise as they come every day. Sagar too witnessed the beauty of this sunrise when he got the opportunity to travel to Dubai.

He soon resumed work in the IT and Logistics sector of the Aviation industry. His wife Priyanka ensured that Sagar’s passion for music kept burning in him and suggested him to bring the magic of Dhol Tasha to Dubai.





After a few discussions and trials, they were able to get the Dhol Tasha to Dubai and even managed to land their first gig with mere 3 artists, which was organized by a local Dubai-Marathi group.

Their next performance at the Dubai Global Village was a huge success. The outcome was way beyond what they had comprehended and it carved his road to success. Today, Sagar & His team of 70+ local artists performs

approximately 20 events per year in UAE preserving the art & culture of Maharashtra in this region.

Strumming his strings of passion has helped him achieve what initially seemed impossible and it's his optimism that has helped him conquer all obstacles. Right from getting the heavy music instruments from Pune to Dubai, to hiring and training new musicians, Sagar has

managed to turn challenges into stepping stones of success.

Having touched the lives of the Indian and non-Indian residents in the UAE and accomplishing the goal of bringing Maharashtrian art, culture and music to the UAE, all of it has been extremely gratifying for Sagar. Music is his life and he continues to make it a beautiful and inspiring one not just for himself but for everyone he meets.





Amazing Maharashtra



Saga of struggles

determination and success

DR. SUDHIR PRABHAKARRAO SAWARKAR, Co-founder, M/s QR Serves Global LLC

“To climb corporate ladder, you must have goal and determination”



A child who could not even recognize English alphabets at one point in time, today is making reforms in the field of genetic diversity and DNA barcoding. The story of Sudhir Prabhakar Rao Sawarkar is a true reflection of how difficult roads lead to beautiful destinations. As an almost 9-year-old student in a local school in a small district in Amravati, Sudhir was clueless about the

direction he must follow in his life. With his honest and dedicated father who was a constable and his mother who was a housewife, the world wasn't very rosy for Sudhir and his four siblings.

Yet, there was something about taking life as it comes and the optimistic attitude is what helped him move forward.



Everything happens for a reason and is for best believes Sudhir and when he met his 7th-grade teacher, Mr. Ambadkar as a young teenager, little did he know about the yardstick of decision.

He entered Sudhir's light as the guiding torch and helped him transform his life completely. Sudhir's grades improved and so did his outlook in life. Soon as an SSC pass out, Sudhir was inclined towards pursuing pharmacy but success doesn't always come easy.

Despite having a totally carefree and amazing childhood in a town that was his everything, Sudhir had to explore other pastures to pursue his dream of carving a niche in the field of Pharma sales.

He took on the job of being a medical representative in the lustrous city, known as the city of dreams, Mumbai particularly failed at fulfilling Sudhir's dreams.

He moved back to Amravati and another unfortunate incident was awaiting him. He met with an accident where his hip bone was dislocated and his future seemed blurry, Sudhir managed to draw inspiration from it as well.

After recovering from his injuries, Sudhir realized that relationships are of utmost importance in a person's life and it is their attitude and values that take them ahead in life. Sudhir took up summer internships and odd jobs in pharmaceutical companies just to sustain and help his family.

It was this dedication and the ability to carry on despite all odds that helped Sudhir climb up the corporate ladder. From a meager job in the pharmaceutical industry to be the Head of Pharmacy to Head of Quality at Hindustan Lever, Sudhir knew his hard work was eventually going to reap great rewards. Having believed that hard work is the key to success, Sudhir continued his professional journey and soon had a new job with Dabur.

Even being in some really dangerous job locations while he was employed with Dabur, Sudhir continued to be the guiding force for many young learners. As a lecturer and even while being on the advisory board of many colleges and universities, he has continued to light the way for others.





Having traveled from Amsterdam to Mumbai and other parts of the world, Sudhir had an impending desire to complete his Ph.D. and decided to fulfill it as well. Not only did he complete his Ph.D., but he has also conducted some extensive research in the field of genetic diversity and DNA barcoding and brought in some remarkable scientific and regulatory breakthrough.

It is his passion to innovate, create, excel, and hard work that led him to the Gulf and it has been a year since he began exploring the entrepreneurial world.

He considers himself extremely lucky to have a super talented wife like Sulakshana. According to

him besides her never-ending love for animals she is also been rescuing many of them. She is from engineering background and also a born artist. From beautifying his world to creating stunning art and calligraphy, she seems to have aced it all. Their doors have always been open to people and to animals as well.

His twin children Swarit and Swarnika are the life of the house and are ardent animal lovers too. He believes in taking one day at a time and is confident that struggles often lay down the foundation for success.

Don't give up, keep moving forward, and if you have to look back, make sure it is only to draw inspiration from your past, concludes Sudhir.





Soar High everyday

DR. ABHAY VILASRAO PAPLIKAR, Real Estate, Shipping, Hospitality, Logistics & Liquor Industry

“To get things better you have to do best of your efforts”



It's not just about ideas, it's about making ideas happen. Dr. Abhay Vilasrao Paplikar with a similar vision to bringing ideas to life and turning the impossible into possible is now one of the most powerful Indians in North America.

Despite his humble beginnings in Amravati, it was the discipline and foresight of his Colonel father who was in the Indian Army in the Rajput Regiment that helped him focus and think big in life.



As a young learner, Dr. Abhay was always entrepreneurial and enthusiastic about work. He considers meeting the epitome of success, JRD Tata as a life-changing opportunity. It is his excellence, achievement, ethics, innovation, perseverance, responsibility, and innovation that have constantly been motivational factors for him.

During his college years, Dr. Abhay had attended one of the guest lectures by Ratan Tata, where he advised all youngsters that if you want to succeed in life, you need to excel at something of your own. Ratan Tata's piece of advice on being successful is what Abhay has followed to the T.

Right from his internship at Hilton, Colorado to his 2-week internship at Dubai, Abhay had excelled at everything he did. He ensured that through his hard work, focus, and passion, he delivered excellent results.

Soon he started a tourism company in Dubai which became a huge success. This laid the foundation for bigger things and ever since then Dr. Abhay has never looked back. He has ventured into several industries thanks to his ever-increasing knowledge and expertise.

His excellence speaks for itself in the field of logistics, shipping, IT, and the liquor industry.

He is of the opinion that great teamwork, strategy, and planning is what helps you achieve success. One must continue moving forward and spreading happiness while on your way ahead.

As a firm believer in Krishna, he strongly believes that one must share whatever they have and should always keep people connected. He is not just a businessman but a philanthropist and an entrepreneur who believes in the magic of knowledge.

"I'm a firm believer in Krishna"





“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure”,

Even as a leader, he considers himself a learner as the world around us is constantly changing and there is always much to learn.

His wife Madhuri has always been his pillar of support and strength and his five-star brand comes from the name of his son Krish. He’s received numerous accolades from American business associations and always believes in the goodness of charity.

As someone, who is a reputed name in the field of hospitality, Dr. Abhay, in his leisure time, loves to

read books and has a great interest in soccer. Someone as passionate and diligent as him also owes part of his success to the UAE government for always being supportive to Asian communities.

He strongly believes that one must support the government in every way possible and must dutifully contribute to the various social causes.

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure, concludes Dr. Abhay.





Amazing Maharashtra



Helping others succeed, be happy!

JAYANT DESHPANDE, President-Samsotech International

Help others succeed, be happy! Be it his family, friends, colleagues, customers or community, this simple theme of 'Helping others succeed, be happy!' has helped Jayant to establish award winning companies & also live a fulfilling life.





“It is our challenges that provide us with courage to chase what we want.”

He presently heads Samsotech as a President, which now has customer base spread over 131+ countries. He believes that, you can succeed only when you help everyone around you to be positive & elated.

At Samsotech, Jayant, Vandana Deshpande & their management team are passionate in making their customers and other Samsoknights successful & happy. This philosophy has helped Samsotech grow globally & also helped everyone to optimize their potential & lead an enlightened career.

At Samsotech, they strive to create an environment that identifies and develops the potential of every Samsoknight. They create opportunities that encourage and empower everyone to excel. These Samsoknights can pursue their passions too, be it reading, sports, cultural, community service or innovation.

Jayant also believes in being a lifelong learner and encourages everyone to be. Continuous learning has now almost become mandatory as things change very rapidly in every field. Interestingly internet has created new &

cheaper ways for everyone to keep learning. He also enjoys reading books & loves to gift books on self development primarily to promote reading habits & bring back the focus on self development



“Best is yet to come”

Jayant & Vandana personally & also as part of Samsotech team have been actively involved in community service. They encourage & motivate others to join their efforts in supporting the needy people, providing basic education & healthcare, welfare of orphans, destitute & children with special needs as well as people affected due to natural calamities including Pandemic. Jayant plans to allocate increasingly more time & resources for community service in future.

Jayant & Vandana enjoy travelling together all over the world. They have two daughters. Sonali takes care of the company business in United States from her office in Santa Clara, while Sampada is a practicing dentist. Both are settled in the USA. Recently Jayant & Vandana were blessed with a granddaughter, Ananya.

Jayant studied at National Institute of Technology, Karnataka, Surathkal & completed B. Tech in Electronics & Communications. He later completed his MBA from Hariot Watt University in the UK. He started his career in instrumentation fields & after 28 years of experience changed his line to software by starting his own family company Samsotech.

When asked what his biggest achievement is so far he said that his BEST IS YET TO COME!





Business, Sports, People

A perfect recipe of Life

RAHUL TULPULE

CEO & Founder - Covenant Tel Group & GMBF - Vice President

“Challenges come with opportunities, always”

Rahul Tulpule was born & brought in the Queen of Deccan, the city of Pune in a family of accoladed National and International level sportsmen and Sports Administrators. Besides their family businesses, Rahul's family has made tremendous contribution to development of sports in Maharashtra and India.

Rahul's father serves as Life Time Vice President of State Tennis Federation & his grandfather was the Vice president of BCCI & President of Maharashtra Cricket Association.

Rahul also played tennis at a professional level & his younger sister-Radhika followed suit and went on become an International Tennis Star representing India on several platforms. “Sports has

been a part of my life for as long as I can remember and is the primary driver behind most of what I do and how my thought process works,” added Rahul.

After completing his schooling, Rahul pursued Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering at MIT Pune after which he worked different roles within his family's businesses to gain a wider outlook on his strengths and weaknesses. Rahul commented that this helped him find his long-term interests & his strengths. He moved to the USA to pursue his Masters in Telecommunication Management.





“It was our utmost priority to send expatriates back to their home cities - it was need of time”

Rahul’s research work during his Masters program led him to be hired as an intern and subsequently as a full-time employee at Williams Communications, one of the USA’s largest fiber-optic companies. His technical skills, quick learning ability and team work got him selected to be part of an elite team that worked with Reliance group for planning & architecture of their India’s largest fiber-optic network. After this assignment, Rahul moved on to work with Nokia where he was part of India’s first Managed Services deal with Bharti Airtel. He swiftly climbed the ladder within Nokia and it bought him to Dubai in 2006 to take up responsibility of Planning & Design Manager with Nokia supporting UAE and the Middle East.

With business and entrepreneurship in his blood, Rahul commented: “The move to Dubai helped me witness first hand the kind of growth that was taking place in the Dubai’s ecosystem in terms of

infrastructure and all the new opportunities that were popping up.” In January 2008, Rahul decided to quit the corporate world & start his own venture – Covenant Tel. It was built around the idea of leveraging his long-term experience with global network equipment vendors and operators. “I knew what they required and what matters to them. My experience with operators helped me gain the perspective of the end customer. Putting all that together, I recognized that I could be a good solutions provider as I could understand both sides of the story,” explained Rahul.

Covenant Group today with a workforce of over 300 professionals has delivered niche projects in over 22 countries in the EMEA region and was recognized as one of the Top Telecom companies in Middle East by CommsMEA. Some of the showcase network Infrastructure projects delivered by the company

include Dubai International Airport (DXB); Dubai World Central (DWC) Airport, Abu Dhabi Intl Airport, Burj Al Arab Hotel, Yas Arena, Al Mas Tower, Dubai Mall, and over 180 large skyscrapers in UAE. Covenant also was the first company to deploy 5G network in UAE back in April 2019 and continues to be the leader for 5G.

After the continued success with his venture Covenant, Rahul admitted that he still endearingly holds onto the world of sports. “There was a natural pull to have a foot in the Tennis court” he added. In 2016, Rahul decided to bring his sister’s brand, Future Pro Tennis Academy, to Dubai as he saw a huge opportunity to provide quality & professional coaching platform in the UAE. In 2019 a branch was also opened in Argentina. In just 2 years, FuturePro UAE won the UAE National Inter-cub Championships in UAE consecutively in 2018 & 2019.”





Being a family man, Rahul respects people's personal life. "We do not have a culture of overtime at Covenant. After six, I think people should spend time with their family." Rahul's wife, Deepali, added that he taught her many things and has been a mentor for her after her father passed. "We married early, and it is together that we started and did many things in life. But Rahul never stopped me from doing anything that I wanted. He was always there to back me up," she explained.

Rahul is a philanthropist and an active member & Vice-President of the GMBF Global (Gulf Maharashtra Business Forum). In the form Rahul created and leads a successful mentoring program which has helped several young professionals. "I do not want people to make the same mistakes I did in my business journey and through this mentoring platform we handhold the new entrepreneurs allowing them to accelerate their growth path,"

During the peak pandemic time, Rahul was like a

messiah for thousands of stranded Indians who wanted to return back to homeland. Rahul's relentless efforts at diplomatic and political level led to the first ever chartered evacuation flight being allotted between GCC & Mumbai. Rahul chartered 2 flights from Dubai- one to Pune and one to Mumbai sending back 380 stranded critical patients, pregnant women, senior citizens and other needy people. He then led the stage to become an enabler and worked with community organizations across GCC region to facilitate more such private flights and together played a crucial role in evacuating over 5000 stranded people back to Maharashtra. "I could not see the suffering of the people and so there was no looking back. Also once I had solved the permission puzzle, I did not want to be a bottleneck and decided to enable and guide more and more community organizations accelerating the repatriation numbers significantly" said a humble Rahul.

Growing up under Rahul & Deepali's teachings their elder daughter-Riva also is a passionate

social and environmental activist & works on several community causes close to her heart.

Just like every successful man has a bigger calling in life, for Rahul, it is giving back to the world and his work during pandemic is living example; "I believe there are ways to overcome all challenges if you approach it in a positive way. I also believe in giving, and not everything I do is calculated as to what I will get in return. My message for society would be to keep helping others without expectations, and things will be good." With this pleasant thought, he signed off.



CA Vinit Rawat



Message of Congratulations!

It gives me immense pleasure to know that Vikas Bhargava of "DCOM Design Co. FZE has planned and successfully executed another edition of Coffee Table Book titled **"Icons of Maharashtra"**.

it is my pleasure to be associated with him.

When he discussed to me it looked like a tough task but the way Vikas approached me and other people with the plan, I believed in the concept. Though it took long then expected but it was worth waiting for it.

I would like to mention that people of Maharashtra have always worked for the land where they have resided with the spirit of total commitment and dedication. Being from the same land I feel to be proud from Maharashtra.

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

With Warm Regards



CA Vinit Rawat

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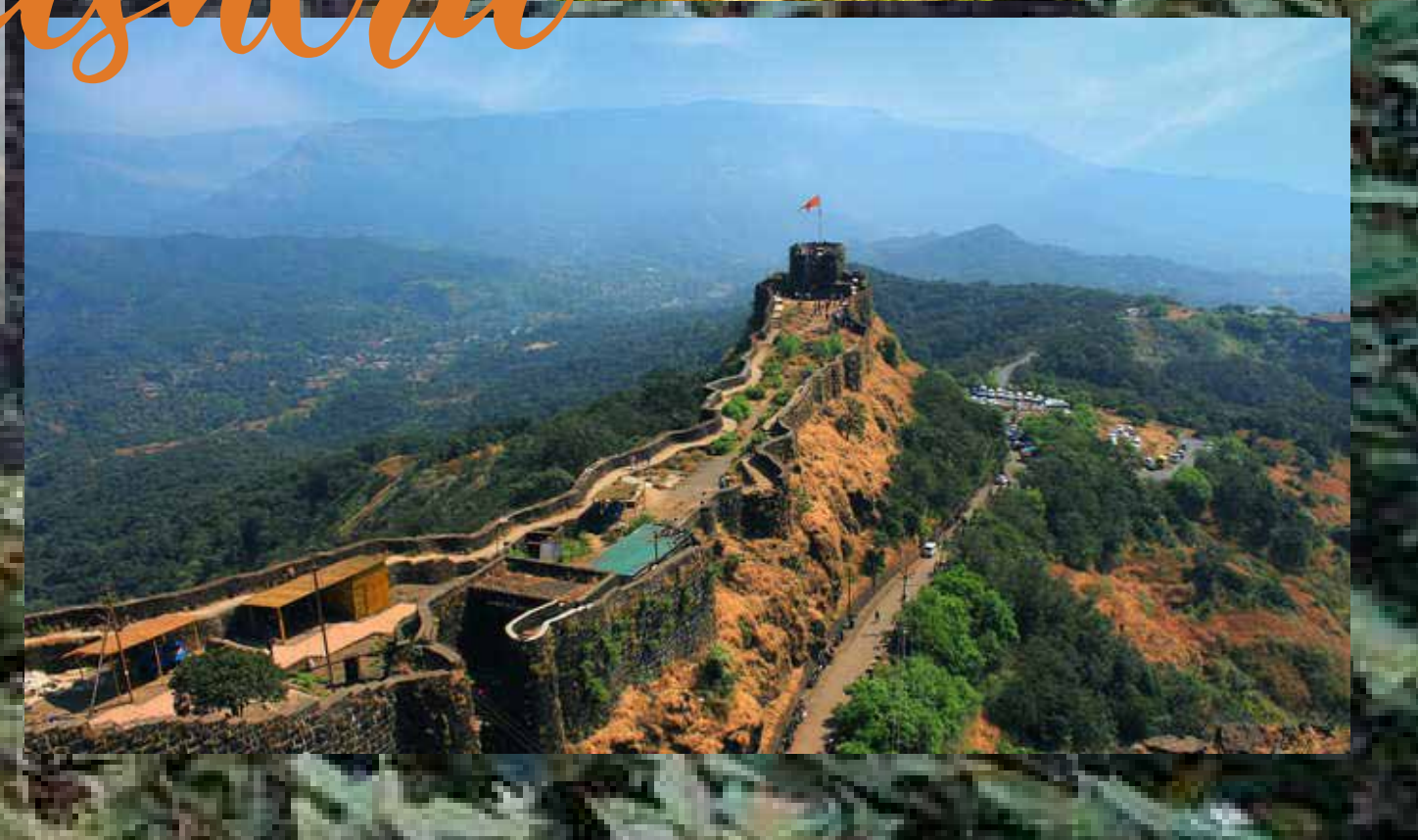
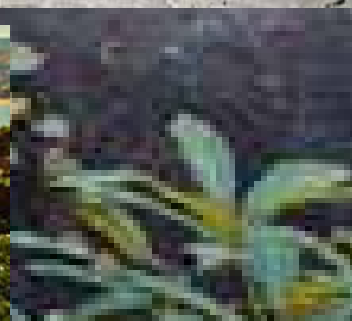
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***“Congratulations to the people in
ICONS OF MAHARASHTRA”***

- DR. BU ABDULLAH

Chairman of Bu Abdullah Group
Emirati Entrepreneur - Philanthropist
Guinness World Record Holder

Dr. Bu Abdullah is an Emirati businessman of par excellence who currently holds an honorary doctorate degree in the field of Business by the prestigious Global Triumph Virtual University. And by having his expertise in law and business, he has dealt with not less than 200 companies in the Middle East, Asia and other parts of the world with his company Bu Abdullah Group of Companies. He has come a long way, right from getting trained at a military school, he also developed soft skills and other leadership skills to be a competent professional and now a successful businessman.

His humble nature and competence have helped him connect with top people from different walks of life including influential people from political circles from the Middle East and Asia. He has good terms with the Royal Family of UAE and with the top politicians of India and Pakistan.

Dr. Bu Abdullah is the first emirati to visit the Lok Sabha Parliament in New Delhi and receive a momento of appreciation at the 6th Atal Awards 2019 for contribution in the field of Business, Humanity and services towards the nation and expats community by Faggan Singh Kulaste - Union State Minister of Ministry of Steel, Shyam Jaju - Vice President of BJP, Chandreshwar Prasad Thakur - Former Minister of India and Bhuvanesh Singhal.

He also recently was honored with a certificate of participation by GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS for being a part of 120 nationalities singing the national anthem.

His works speak a lot and have even helped him bag several awards including getting Dynamic Emirati Entrepreneur by Ramdas Bandu Minister of State for Social Justice, Empowerment in the Narendra Modi Government and the Most Iconic Emirati Business Personality of the Year 2019. With his good connections in Bollywood, we never know he would embark with one project in the Tinsel Town soon.