



### **BY VIKAS BHARGAVA**

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In Support with B5 Group - Ghana (Mr. Mukesh Thakwani)

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The Priest-King, from Sindh, is a small male figure sculpture found during the excavation of the ruined Bronze Age city of Mohenjo-daro in Sindh, in 1925–26. It is dated to around 2000–1900 BCE, in Mohenjo-daro's Late Period, and is "the most famous stone sculpture" of the Indus Valley civilization. It is widely admired, as "the sculptor combined naturalistic detail with stylized forms to create a powerful image that appears much bigger than it actually is," and excepting possibly the Pashupati Seal," nothing has come to symbolize the Indus Civilization better."





UK

USA

Australia Belgium











### Letter of Best Wishes

UAE-based Indian expatriate, especially from Sindhi (India) have also been at the forefront of giving back to the community, both here In UAE and globally. Moreover, these NRI- have been increasingly achieving great success, thereby using the fruits of their success to drive the growth and progress to all mankind.

The UAE government has always lavished praise at the Indian expat community, for their role in building the modern and futuristic UAE.

I congratulate DCOM Designs for coming out with this publication, "Most Iconic Sindhis of the World" which details the achievements of some 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 various community in the UAE.

I am sure that this book will serve not only as a source of pride for the Sindhi 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.

Awad Mohammad Bin Shaikha Mujren Director General of Emirates Travelers Festival

OFFICE OF H.E. AWAD MOHAMMAD BIN SHAIKHA MUJREN

Bhagwandas Sabnani State General Secretary & Office Incharge



### BHARTIYA JANTA PARTY (Madhya Pradesh)

Letter No. 101/2023

Date - 10th March, 2023



### Message of Congratulations

It gives me immense pleasure to know that UAE based 'DCOM Design Co. FZE led by Vikas Bhargava and supported by Dr. Ram Jawhrani, Mumbai, has come up with the idea of the Coffee Table Book 'Most Iconic Sindhis of the World'.

The Sindhi community has always worked for the land where they live with a spirit of total commitment and dedication. Sindhi people, especially those who are engaged in business and various other professions abroad, act as the brand ambassadors of the rich Sindhi culture and traditions.

It is heartening to know that after the successful publication of many books, DCOM Designs has now launched this book on Sindhi Diaspora. I am sure this will promote and grace the aura of Sindhi community not only in India but around the globe. I convey my heartiest good wishes to all those who are associated with this Coffee Table Book and hope to see more such initiatives in the years to come. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

(Bhagwandas Sabnani)

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Message of Congratulations

I am happy to see that Mr. Vikas Bhargava in association with the B5 Group of Ghana is bringing out another edition of their Coffee Table Book on Sindhis – "MOST ICONIC SINDHIS OF THE WORLD"

The Sindhi community have been brand ambassadors of rich culture and tradition through the ages, historically. They have given dimensions to land, air and water through various works.



It is heartening to know that Mr. Vikas Bhargava after the successful launch of many books, is now bringing this first book on "achievers of Sindhis and their community".

I am sure this will endorse and grace the aura of Sindhi community and reach to the next generation, who are always excited to see and read great journeys of iconic personalities.

It is an honor and privilege to be a part of this book and share more about the company and its journey emphasizing on the vision and mission.

I convey my heartiest good wishes to all those who are associated with this Coffee Table Book.

DSO - IFZA

I wish them success and many greater achievements in the coming years.



Ravinder Soni Founder & Director BLUECHIP GROUP OF COMPANIES



Memorandaum



It gives me immense pleasure to know that UAE based "DCOM Design Co. FZE led by Mr. Vikas Bhargava Is launching another amazing book project.

I've been associated with Vikas Bhargava from past 2 years I've seen many of his project and im sure this upcoming book will be great as usual. From my limited knowledge, Sindhi people especially those business owners and professionals abroad are the great brand ambassador of Rich Sindhi 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, are now launching this book on the Sindhi Diaspora. I am sure this will promote the grace and the aura of the Sindhi community not only in India but also around the globe.

I convey my heartiest good wishes to all those who are associated with this Coffee Table Book "Most Iconic Sindh of the World".

Wishing the project a great launch and success.

Sincerely,

William Stenhouse

William Stenhouse Founder and CEO, UAE Africa Networking Group Co Author, Titans of Africa Info@uaeang.com www.titansofafrica.org +971581898324

# ASIAN & LITE

LONDON

March 7, 2023



Dear Vikas

Congratulations. I am sure the forthcoming book on the Sindhi diaspora titles the Most Iconic Sindhi will be a sought after title across the world especially in the US, UK, UAE, Canada and Australia.

The Sindhi diaspora is known for its entrepreneurial spirit and has made significant contributions to the economies and cultures of the countries where they have settled. They have been involved in various fields such as business, trade, finance, and education.

Despite living outside their ancestral homeland, Sindhis have retained their cultural identity and continue to celebrate their traditions and customs. They have established community associations and organisations to promote and preserve their culture, and many Sindhi festivals and events are celebrated in various parts of the world.

All the best Vikas. Please convey my regards to all those who are involved in the Most Iconic Sindhi of the world

Anasudhin Azeez

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### LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Every community has a unique story of its struggle and achievements, which gets chronicled by great historians. India, being a multicultural society, with myriad set of languages, different customs, and traditions, many state governments have recorded their history on a regular basis.

Sindhi community was unfortunate, it did not inherit any piece of land in independent India, in spite of several sacrifices made for the independence. However, there is no substantial record of these sacrifices and achievements.

Under these circumstances, one non-Sindhi historian of his kind, Mr. Vikas Bhargava took it upon himself to record the history of communities of India as well of other countries like Africa. He has published over 32 books in this regard. Fortunately, he has also chronicled the services of Sindhi community, which he is going to publish under the title 'Most Iconic Sindhis of the World'.

When he contacted me for this research project, I felt obliged to help him to have an authentic record of the services of Sindhis in history.

I presented him my books 'Global Sindhis Part I and Part II' based on the history of Sindhis which was recorded through interviews with prominent personalities of the community. During his Delhi visit, we visited a few stalwarts of the community who helped him get a correct historical perspective of Sindhis for recording of history.

Mr. Vikas Bhargava is very optimistic about this project and views it as a lighthouse for future generations. This documentation of the interviews given by the prominent Sindhi personalities on the various perspective of the society and nuances of its culture and heritage will definitely go down in the history and archives. It will work as a storehouse for the coming generations.

I am thankful for his efforts for the Sindhi community.

Dr. Ram Jawhrani Chairman Sahyog Foundation

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Once again, 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. *"It's a usual line ... but thats true"* 

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.

Like always I say.... Initially seemed like a daunting task, but when I started all I had a vision which was supported by some great personalities particularly Dr. Ram Jawhrani of Mumbai ... rather I can say Mentor... also 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 all 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 Icons are so different and motivating that I would like to visit their home town and make a documentary film. I dedicate this book to my parents, as the initial idea was given by my mother. I also would like to thank my boss Teena Bhargava.

So let's meet over a drink... Though I prefer Chai :)

Vikas Bhargava Author / Publisher / Creative Cook of the Book





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Mohenjo-daro, meaning 'Mound of the Dead Men and sometimes lit. 'Mound of Mohan' in Sindhi; is an archaeological site in the province of Sindh. (Now Pakistan) Built around 2500 BCE, it was the largest settlement of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation, and one of the world's earliest major cities, contemporaneous with the civilizations of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Minoan Crete, and Norte Chico. With an estimated population of at least 40,000 people, Mohenjo-daro prospered until around 1700 BCE.

Mohenjo-daro was abandoned in the 19th century BCE as the Indus Valley Civilization declined, and the site was not rediscovered until the 1920s. Significant excavation has since been conducted at the site of the city, which was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980, the first site in South Asia to be so designated. The site is currently threatened by erosion and improper restoration.

### Etymology

Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 002

The city's original name is unknown. Based on his analysis on a Mohenjo-daro seal, Iravatham Mahadevan speculates that the city's ancient name could have been Kukkutārma of the cockerel Cock-fighting may have had ritual and religious significance for the city. Mohenjo-daro may also have been a point of diffusion for the clade of the domesticated chicken found in Africa, Western Asia, Europe and the Americas. Mohenjo-daro, the modern name for the site, has been interpreted as "Mound of the Dead Men" in Sindhi.

Mohenjo-daro is located off the right (west) bank of the lower Indus river (SINDHU RIVER) in Larkana District. It lies on a Pleistocene ridge in the flood plain of the Indus, around 28 kilometres (17 mi) from the town of Larkana.

# Sindh to Sindhi

### A Glimpse

The province of Sindh has been designated after the river Sindhu (Indus) which literally created it and has been also its sole means of sustenance. However, the importance of the river and close phonetical resemblance in nomenclature would make one consider Sindhu as the probable origin of the name of Sindh. Therefore, the first definition of the Sindhi culture emanates from that over the 7000-year-old Indus Valley Civilization. This is the pre-Aryan period, about 3,000 years BC. When the urban civilization in Sindh was at its peak.

Sindhis are an Indo-Aryan ethno-linguistic group who speak the Sindhi language and are native to the Sindh province of now Pakistan. After the partition from India in 1947, many Sindhi Hindus and Sindhi Sikhs migrated to India and other parts of the world. Sindh was one of the earliest regions to be conquered by the Arabs and influenced by Islam after 720 AD. Before this period, it was heavily Hindu, and Buddhist. After 632 AD, it was part of the Islamic empires of the Abbasids and Umayyids. Habbari, Soomra, Samma, Arghun dynasties ruled Sindh.

Sindh was a cradle of civilization as the center of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization, and through its long history was the seat of several dynasties that helped shape its identity.



Boat with direction finding birds to find land.[33] Model of Mohenjo-Daro seal, 2500-1750 BCE

### Ancient:

Indus Valley Civilization, Sindhu Sauvera, Achaemenid Empire, Alexander, Mauryan Era, Greco-Bactrians, Indo Scythians, Kushan Empire, Sassanian Empire (325-480 AD), Great Gupta Empire, Gurjaradesa, Rai Dynasty (c. 524–632 CE), Harsha Empire, Brahman dynasty (c. 632 – c. 724 CE)

### Muslim Era:

Arab Conquests, Habbari Arab dynasty, Ghaznavids, Soomra, Samma and the Delhi sultanate, Arghun-Tarkhan, Mughals, Kalhoras.

### Modern Era

It is believed by most scholars that the earliest trace of human inhabitation in India traces to the Soan Sakaser Valley between the Indus and the Jhelum rivers. This period goes back to the first inter-glacial period in the Second Ice Age, and remnants of stone and flint tools have been found.

Sindh and surrounding areas contain the ruins of the Indus Valley Civilization. There are remnants of thousand-year-old cities and structures, with a notable example in Sindh being that of Mohenjo Daro. Hundreds of settlements have been found spanning an area of about a hundred miles. These ancient towns and cities had advanced features such as city-planning, brick-built houses, sewage and draining systems, as well as public baths.

The people of the Indus Valley also developed a writing system that has to this day still not been fully deciphered. The people of the Indus Valley had domesticated bovines, sheep, elephants, and camels. The civilization also had knowledge of metallurgy. Gold, silver, copper, tin, and alloys were widely in use. Arts and crafts flourished during this time as well; the use of beads, seals, pottery, and bracelets are evident



The Indus valley civilisation of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa dates back between 2500 BC and 1750 BC. There, however, is no consensus on whether the seals excavated from the sites were in fact coins.

### Sindhu Sauvera

Sauvīra was an ancient kingdom of the lower Indus Valley mentioned in the Late Vedic and early Buddhist literature and the Hindu epic Mahabharata. It is often mentioned alongside the Sindhu Kingdom. Its capital city was Roruka, identified with present-day Aror/Rohri in Sindh, mentioned in the Buddhist literature as a major trading center. According to the Mahabharata, Jayadratha was the king of the Sindhus, Sauviras and Sivis, having conquered Sauvira and Sivi, two kingdoms close to the Sindhu kingdom.

Sindhu was a kingdom of ancient India mentioned in the epic Mahabharata and in the Harivamsa Purana. It stretched along the banks of river Sindhu (Indus) in ancient India. It is often mentioned alongside the Sauvira Kingdom. It is believed that Sindhu kingdom was founded by Vrsadarbh, one of sons of Sivi. According to the Glimpses of Ancient Sindh, authored by Mirchandani, its capital was known as Vrsadarbhpura, and Tulsianis, later known as Sindhu, was located at or near the location of the present town of Mithankot (in southern Punjab). The inhabitants of the kingdoms were called Sindhus or Saindhavas. "Sindhu" literally means "sea".

### Achaemenid Empire

Achaemenid empire may have controlled parts of present-day Sindh as part of the province of Hindush.The territory may have corresponded to the area covering the lower and central Indus basin. To the north of Hindush was Gandāra (spelt as Gandāra by the Achaememids). These areas remained under Persian control until the invasion by Alexander.

Alternatively, some authors consider that Hindush may have been located in the Punjab area.

### Alexander

Alexander conquered parts of Sindh after Punjab for few years. Alexander's death gave rise to Seleucid Empire which was defeated by the Mauryan Empire.

### Mauryan Era

Bhanbore port city dates from 1st century BC from Scythio Parthian era.

Chandragupta Maurya, with the aid of Kautilya, had established his empire around 320 BCE. The early life of Chandragupta Maurya is not clear. Kautilya took a young Chandragupta to the University at Taxila and enrolled him in order to educate him in the arts, sciences, logic, mathematics, warfare, and administration. Chankya's main task was to liberate India from Greek rule. With the help of the small Janapadas of Punjab and Sindh, he had gone on to conquer much of the North West. He then defeated the Nanda rulers in Pataliputra to capture the throne. Chandragupta Maurya fought Alexander's successor in the east, Seleucus I Nicator, when the latter invaded. In a peace treaty, Seleucus ceded all territories west of the Indus River and offered a marriage, including a portion of Bactria, while Chandragupta granted Seleucus 500 elephants.



### Greco-Bactrians

Coin of the Gurjura Confederacy, on the model of the Sasanian coinage of Sindh. Sindh. Circa 570-712 CE. Following a century of Mauryan rule which ended by 180 BCE, the region came under the Greco-Bactrians based in what is today Afghanistan and these rulers would also convert to and proliferate Buddhism in the region. The Buddhist city of Siraj-ji-Takri is located along the western limestone terraces of the Rohri Hills in the Sukkur district of Upper Sindh, along the road that leads to Sorah. Its ruins are still visible on the top of three different mesas, in the form of stone and mud-brick walls and small mounds, whilst other architectural remains were observed along the slopes of the hills in the 1980s.

### Indo Scythians

Indo Scythians ruled Sindh for a short period of time until they were thrown out by Kushans.

# Kushan Empire

Kushans ruled Sindh and called the land "Scythia" and in this period, Buddhist developed in the region. Kahu-jo-Daro stupa at Mirpurkhas exhibits presence of buddhist practices in Sindh.

# Sassanian Empire (325-480 AD)

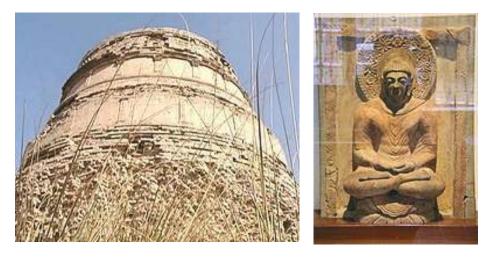
Sasanian rulers from the reign of Shapur I claimed control of the Sindh area in their inscriptions. Shapur I installed his son Narseh as "King of the Sakas" in the areas of Eastern Iran as far as Sindh. Two inscriptions during the reign of Shapur II mention his control of the regions of Sindh, Sakastan and Turan. Still, the exact term used by the Sasanian rulers in their inscription is Hndy, similar to Hindustan, which cannot be said for sure to mean "Sindh". Al-Tabari mentioned that Shapur II built cities in Sind and Sijistan.

# Gupta Empire

Gupta empire controlled Sindh from King Samudragupta to Scandagupta (4th century CE-5th century CE)

### Gurjaradesa

Gurjaradēśa, or Gurjara country, is first attested in Bana's Harshacharita (7th century CE). Its king is said to have been subdued by Harsha's father Prabhakaravardhana (died c. 605 CE). The bracketing of the country with Sindha (Sindh), Lāta (southern Gujarat) and Malava (western Malwa) indicates that the region including the northern Gujarat and Rajasthan is meant.



Stupa of Thul Mir Rukan

Buddha from Kahu-jo-Daro stupa

# Rai Dynasty (c. 524–632 CE)

The Rai dynasty of Sindh at its height of power ruled much of the Northwestern regions of the Indian subcontinent. The influence of the Rais extended from Kashmir in the east, Makran and Debal port (modern Karachi) in the west, Surat port in the south, and the Kandahar, Sulaiman, Ferdan and Kikanan hills in the north. It ruled an area of over 600,000 square miles (1,553,993 km2), and the dynasty reigned a period of 143 years.

### Harsha Empire

Harshacharitta, a biography written by Banabhatta mentions King Harsha badly defeated the ruler of Sindh and took possession of his fortunes.

# Brahman Chach Dynasty 700 AD

Most of the information about Sindh's Hindu Brahman dynasty comes from the Chachnama, a historical account of the Chach-Brahman dynasty. The Brahman dynasty were successors of the Rai dynasty. Although under Hindu kingship, Buddhism was the main religion of Sindh or at least in Southern parts of Sindh.

# Historic symbols



Two Halves of 5000 years old Seven Stranded necklace from Mohenjodaro Site of IVC. 3000 BC. Divided between India and Pakistan after its Partition in 1947. First is in National Museum, New Delhi, India and second is in Mohenjodaro Museum, Sindh, Pakistan.[1205×910]



Dancing Girl is a prehistoric bronze sculpture made in lost-wax casting about c. 2300–1750 BC in the Indus Valley civilisation city of Mohenjo-daro



Picture of Original Goddess





### Language

Sindhi is one of the oldest languages of the sub-continent, with a rich culture, vast folklore and extensive literature and is one of the major languages of India and Pakistan. Worldwide its spoken by appox 4,00,000 people.

After the partition of India, numerous Sindhi Hindus who migrated from Sindh and settled all over India, they carried the launguage not only to sub-continent but to the each corner of the world. It has the grace and aura but it also has its issues, as the young generation is migrating to other regional languages... but still some of the prominent people are putting efforts to glorify it by way of art, drama, movies and literature. According to Ethnologue, Sindhi has numerous dialects, which differ in pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary.

- Kachchi
- Lari
- Lasi
- Thareli
- Vicholi (or Central Sindhi)
- Macharia
- Dukslinu (Hindu Sindhi)
- Sindhi Musalmani (Muslim Sindhi)

Sindhi is written in three different scripts: a modified Arabic script and the Devanagari script used by some Sindhi speakers in India.

# Modified Arabic script

Since Sindhi has many more consonants and vowels than Arabic, extra letters have been created through the use of diacritic dots that modify the basic letter shapes. The orthography consists of 52 consonant and 10 vowel symbols, plus a number of diacritics. The Sindhi script is written from right to left, and short vowels are omitted, except at the beginning of words.

### • Devanagari Script

In 1948, the Indian government implemented the Devanagari script for writing Sindhi, but it did not gain mass acceptance. As a result, the language is written in both the modified Arabic and Devanagari scripts in India.

### • Roman Alphabet

Sindhi can also be written with the Roman alphabet which is increasingly used in electronic communications.

Most Sindhi words are derived from Sanskrit, but the language also has a large number of Persian and Arabic loanwords due to centuries of Muslim influence. In more recent times, it also has borrowed many Urdu words.

### Dress

Sindhi women wear Shalwar kameez or the sari and the men wear shalwar kameez or the kurta with pyjamma. However, before the adoption of Shalwar kameez, sari and kurta, Sindhi's had their own traditional costumes.

The work of Sindhi embroidery motifs is designed peculiarly in silk and cotton thread on either silk or cotton. ... The stitches preferably used are straight, satin, chain, buttonhole, open chain, couched straight, interlacing, couched, laid threads, over sewing, crossed herringbone, darning, fly and stem. Up until the 1840s, women wore the lehenga and choli, and men the lungi or the traditional Sindhi shalwar/suthan. Thereafter, up to the 1930s women began to wear the suthan and Sindhi cholo which was the typical dress for all women of Sindh.



In the past, the younger women wore velvet or amber pyjama (suthan) both at home and outside. Also they wore a long skirt (jablo) on top and a thick poplin blouse (koti) and a white rawa (a muslin head scarf). Middle aged and young ladies wore churidar pyjama (sorhi suthan). Elderly ladies used to wear a white sheet (chaadar) to cover her body with only a peep hole (akhiri) deftly contrived. Over time, older ladies started to wear the Salwar Kurta with Slippers (sapato).

The original dress of the Sindhi male was dhoti, jamo (top) and achi pagirhi (White pagri)





# Modern clothing

### Shalwar kameez

Men and women wear straight cut Punjabi shalwar kameez using local prints and designs.

### Sindhi kurta

The Sindhi kurta is the traditional straight cut variety which is becoming increasingly popular, a patterns to embroider the garment and also makes use of mirrors. The local art of bandhani (creating patterned textiles by resisting parts of a fabric by tying knots on it before it is dyed) is utilised which is believed to have originated in Sindh and spread to Gujarat via Rajasthan and is also practiced in the Punjab region. Sindhi kurtas are also made out of heavy local material called rilli and the kurtas are often called rilli kurtas. Ajrak prints are also used.

Ajrak also known as Ajrakh is a unique form of blockprinting found in Sindh, Kutch, Gujarat; and Barmer, Rajasthan in India. These shawls display special designs and patterns made using block printing by stamps. Over the years, ajraks have become a symbol of the Sindhi culture and traditions.



### Sindhi Cuisine

(Sindhi: الذاى يوذنس) refers to the native cuisine of the Sindhi people. The daily food in most Sindhi households consists of wheat-based flat-bread (phulka) and rice accompanied by two dishes, one gravy and one dry with curd, papad or pickle. In India, many Sindhi Hindus migrated following the Partition of India in 1947. Before Independence, the State of Sindh was under Bombay Presidency. Due to its proximity with Gujarat, Rajasthan and political ties with then Bombay, it shared similar culinary traditions. Sindhis in Gandhidham and Ulhasnagar have preserved this tradition in the form of few special dishes like Batan Papdi, Sev Dal Sandwich, Dahi Sev Puri, etc.

• Sai bhaji chawal, a popular dish from Sindh consists of white steamed rice served with spinach curry which is given a 'tarka' with tomatoes, onions and garlic.

Koki is another popular Sindhi flat-bread that is prepared with wheat flour and goes well with any dal, sabzi or even curd or chai.
Seviyan (Vermicelli), typically served as a sweetened (sometimes milk-based) dessert, is popular:



• Sindhi Kadi is a unique and special dish prepared on festive occasions especially by Sindhis residing in India. It consists of a thick spicy gravy made from chick pea flour unlike buttermilk usually used for kadi preparation along with seasonal vegetables.

• Mitho lolo is also served with chilled buttermilk called Matho on various occasions.

• Daal Pakwaan

• Taryal Patata also called Took Aloo, a staple of Sindhi diet, is a form of thinly sliced, pan fried or deep fried potatoes with local spices.

• Pallo Machi is a popular Sindhi delicacy.

• Palli, is a saag or leafy green from the Chickpeas, and is enjoyed either cooked by itself like spinach or with fish cooked in the palli and called "Machi Palli".

- Thari Singhrian ji Bhaaji
- Sindhi Beeh Ji Bhaji

• Bhee (simply means 'lotus root' in English). A high quality lotus root, which is then cooked in clay-pot using various spices, which then results in an excellent delicacy that is famous all over. Sindhi Biryani, Sindhi Curry, Sabu Dal Chawal (yellow daal with rice).

• NOT to miss - Sindhi Food cannot be complete without PAPAD



### Drinks

- Thadal
- Khirni
- Sharbat
- Falooda
- •Lassi

### Art and Craft

SINDHI are rich in crafts from ancient times, Block printing, dye, fine cottons and muslins, such as Sussi and Khes, Farasi embroidery, Rilli (applique or patch work), bangles, jewelry and lacquer work are the major crafts.



### Music:

Sindhi music is generally performed in either the "Baits" or "Waee" styles. The Baits style is vocal music in Sanhoon (low voice) or Graham (high voice).

The traditional compilations of Shah Jo Risalo include 30 Surs (chapters) which are sung as raags. The oldest publications of Shah Jo Risalo contained some 36 Surs, but later most of the linguists discarded 6 Surs, as their language and content did not match with the Shah's style.

Common instruments used in Sindhi regional music include:

- Ektara known as Ektaro in Sindhi
- Tanpura known as Tanpuro in Sindhi
- Alghoza Flute
- Bansuri
- Pungi known as Been in Sindhi
- Narr
- Naghara
- Dhol
- borrindo

There were and at present many great Sindhi singers have given and fame to community

# Sindhis Worldwide:

Though there are 50 Million+ worldwide in 152 countries (*data may have changed as of now*)

But these are countries which has more than 500+ population

Joo population	
Australia	7,516
Austria	1,410
Bahrain	1,508
Bangla Desh	516
Canada	23,090
France	1822
Nigeria	766
Malaysia	716
Kuwait	825
Jamaica	1516
Japan	2725
Indonesia	7100
India	35,50,972
Hongkong	37,090
Germany (East) G.D.R.	766
Pakistan	3,22,00,012
Oman	766
Phillipines	1016
Singapore	28,029
South Africa	3168
Tanzania	616
Thailand	7056
U.S.A.	40,109

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Source Jhulelal.com

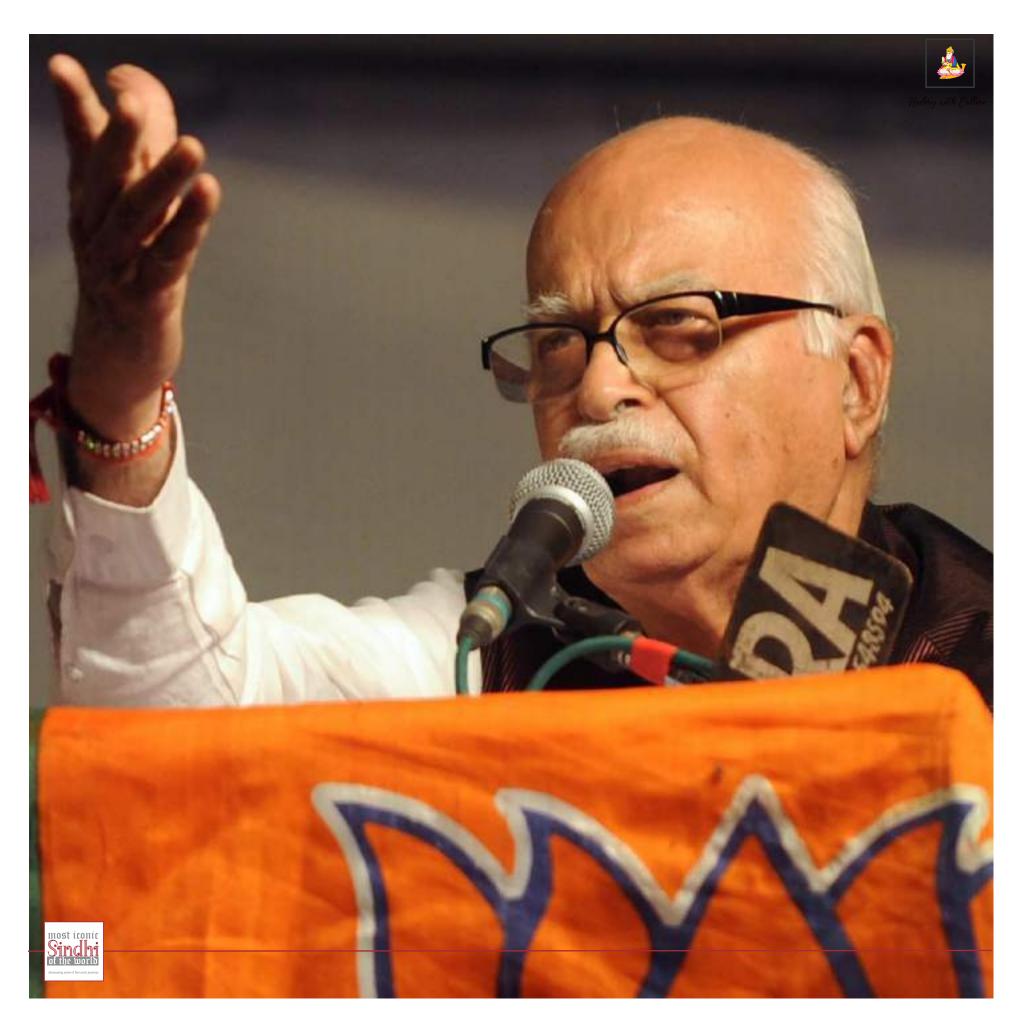


### Few of the PAST legends ...



While these were the past ICONS who had created history and contributed immensely to the growth and development of the community across all aspects, we're now presenting the Icons of the present day SINDHIS - the men and women who've carried forward the glorious legacy left behind by their spectacular ancestors, and presented Sindhism in a completely new way on the global map.

Embark on a journey with us as we uncover their stories, struggles, successes and achievements that will engage and inspire one and all.



# Created path for generations to come

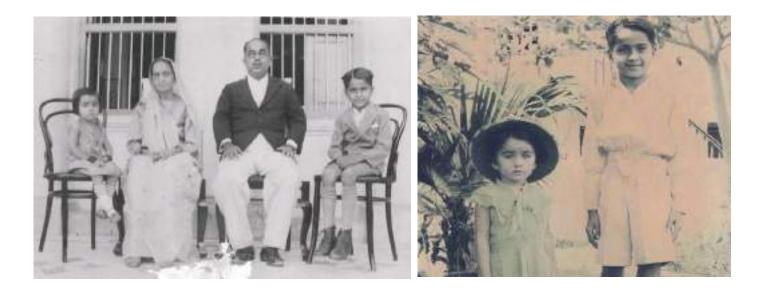
### Lal Krishna Advani- Veteran Politician & Ex Deputy Prime Minister

It is easy to break down and destroy. The heroes are those who make peace and build. -Nelson Mandela



Among the heroes of Hindu Nationalism in India, Lal Krishna Advani will always continue to have his own special place and irreplaceable appeal. His remarkable life story, his advent from the Sindh province that India lost to the partition and his distinctively unique personality that displayed culture and class can never fail to admire his fellow Sindhis and countrymen. His thundering speeches mesmerized the millions of listeners and played a decisive role in opinion building and has saved his role as the emancipator of the rights of the majority population of the country. As a prominent political leader of India he is greatly respected and has developed a reputation for his politics acumen and integrity.

Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 015



As an Indian politician, he served as the Deputy Prime Minister of India from 2002 to 2004. Born on 8 November 1927, Advani is one of the co-founders and senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He has been a longtime member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a volunteer organisation. His family belonged to the Amil sub-branch of Sindhi community and all the male members of the family were in respectable jobs and lucrative businesses. Advani completed his elementary education in Sindh and later went to pursue his law degree to Mumbai.

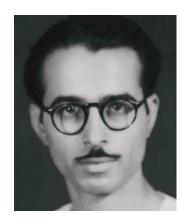
A man of words and actions, in 2015 he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian honor. He has held numerous positions in his career. In a bid to boost the popularity of the BJP and unify the Hindutva ideology, Advani organized countrywide 6 rath yatras or processions, starting in 1987. Post partition, he visited Pakistan twice, once in 1978 and later on in 2005. He fondly recounts his visits and tells, "When the High Commissioner in Pakistan enquired about the places I would like to visit in Pakistan, there was no doubt in my mind that one of these would certainly be my Alma Mater St. Patrick's High School in Karachi. Most of the students in school at that time were Christians, besides a few Jews. It was indeed a memorable day when my principal Fr. Modestine and six teachers came to meet me.

When I re-visited Pakistan in 2005, unfortunately none of them was alive. I also got the opportunity to visit my ancestral home. What gave me immense happiness was that the local residents have still preserved and kept everything intact as we used in those days.

"When General Musharraf visited New Delhi in 2005, he brought along a photocopy of the school register along with a photograph of the school for me. It gave me immense happiness and joy, he adds.



### "Joined Politics in 1951"



connection with the Sangh. It was expected that those who joined the organization were inspired by patriotic feelings, were highly disciplined and of high moral character. All these characteristics had a great impact on me. I was attracted to the RSS ideology of nationalism."

He describes his political journey in a nostalgic manner. "This happened in 1942, when I was 14 years old and just joined college. We often played the table tennis and one of the boys named Murli Mukhi once left the game hurriedly telling he is heading towards RSS Shakha. I was amazed at his commitment and this was the beginning of my interest and

After independence, he was imprisoned several times because after partition, the RSS organization was banned. That was the first time he was sent to jail.

He remembers, "The Muslim league and the British both decided on this issue. Congress was also against partition. All the Hindus in Pakistan were against partition, but then violence and other factors combined together and led to partition. Also because of the violence, the Congress surrendered. However, it is believed that the British had already decided that before they left the country they would divide the nation. No one had promised any rights or privileges to Sindhis in India. On the contrary, Gandhiji had told Sindhis not to leave Sindh. But that was simply impossible."

Advani formally joined politics in India in 1951, when Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee established the Jana Sangh.



Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 017

A classic embodiment of Sindhi culture and it's true spirit, he believes that Sindhi are giving name and fame to the cultures wherever they are, "I believe that had Sindhis been concentrated in one place then it would have been a different question. However, Sindhis, being a business community, have spread everywhere. I am of the view that whatever the Sindhis have achieved they have done so based on their own merit just like the Parsi community. wherever we go we have to glorify our community and we are doing it." A true believer and practitioner of leaving an impact on the society, he insists on preserving the Sindhi script as much as possible either in the form of lierature or drama or even in the form of any art. It is the duty of the elders of the family to use Sindhi language as a mode of communication within the family and the community.

"When a human being is uprooted from his home and hearth, his maximum potential surfaces. One, however, has to have the strength of character and resilience, which one finds plentiful in our community and in the Punjabi community.

Interestingly, even before Partition, our Sindhwarkis who left Sindh to far off countries, like Hong Kong and Spain proved their mettle in business.

Therefore, it is my firm belief that Sindhis with their qualities of hard work and skills can still do better and they should do so. "



Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 018

Demography is changing worldwide-



Mr. Advani used to love cricket in school days He especially treasures his meeting with the legendary moviemaker Satyajit Ray, he had seen nearly all his films and admired his work greatly.

For Mr. Advani his personal and ideological family are the same. "My biggest strengths are my ideological family i.e. the RSS, the Jana Sangh or the BJP and my personal family. In addition, both have empowered me incredibly. My wife Kamla, who I lost recently, was a great support and my daughter Pratibha who is now my strength." My message for Sindhis, even those who were not born in Sindh, but born after the partition, is that they should never forget that Sindh was and is a part and parcel of the undivided India to such an extent that today if we are Hindus, the very word Hindu is derived from Sindhu.

After the partition, some people told Nehru that Sindh should be deleted from the National Anthem, as it was no longer in India. Nehru replied, 'How can we leave out Sindh or Sindhu, Hindu has originated from Sindhu.'

They should remember one thing that the

whole of India is sacred to us and it is our nation.

We must contribute to the development of the state and the country, in which we reside, he concludes lovingly.



An extract from 'Global Sindhis II' by Dr Ram Jawhrani



Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 020



## Dwelling on Magnanimity

GOPICHAND PARMANAND HINDUJA - Co - Chairman, Hinduja Group

"Spiritually, culturally and emotionally we have remained rooted in India. We brought Diwali to the Islamic world and to the UK. Today. Diwali is celebrated all over from the White House to Trafalgar Square."

India is blessed with a plethora of visionary business leaders and families who have revolutionized their respective businesses through their unparalleled entrepreneurial acumen and diligence.

Crossing all kinds of hindrances, they have created business legacies through sheer determination and exceptional courage and commitment. They have created a niche for themselves and brought a visible economic and social impact through innumerable philanthropic endeavours.

One of the leading Indian conglomerates, the

Hinduja Group is renowned for its excellent business culture because of which they have reached astounding heights of brilliance and philanthropy. The Hinduja Empire was founded by Parmanand Deepchand Hinduja, who migrated from a place called Shikarpur in Sindh and laid the foundation of the family's business in Mumbai in 1914.

Today, the Hinduja Group has interests in mobility, banking & finance, energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, and services across the Americas, Europe, India and the Far-east.



Sindhi Community has always been the powerhouse harbouring several legends. Gopichand Parmanand Hinduja brings with him an array of Sindhi values and ethics. One of nine siblings, he was raised with integrity, humility and strong moral principles by an humble extremely simple, and entrepreneur-minded family. A humble and modest man, Gopichand has a deep influence of his parents in his life. He submits in a loving and contemplative tone, "We were nine siblings, five boys and four girls. We were a very happy joint family, where my mother Jamuna was the fulcrum of our family life.

My father was deeply into business and philanthropic activities. We brothers were introduced to business very early in life while we were still studying and gained our apprenticeship" He has amassed a great wealth of knowledge that he believes in utilizing for the upliftment of society and leaving an impact on the lives of people. He beautifully calls himself as a student of the "University of Life."

Calling his journey of life full of learnings and challenges, Gopichand seems to be a business leader with benevolence, forward-thinking and a progressive outlook. The values and principles instilled in him by his parents have always inspired him and added a great deal in enhancing his contribution to the world of business.

A family-oriented person, he believes and submits with a lot of reverence, "Our strength is our family unity. We all believe that whatever we are today, whatever we have achieved, is all because of the blessings of our parents." As a member of the Hinduja family, he believes that every person you work with has to be treated with respect and dignity like one's own family.





A true learner, he is always ready to embrace the challenges of life with gratitude and finds learning from them. With his experience and expertise in business, he strives to constructively add value to people's lives. He uses his life experiences as torchbearer for others which helps, educates and motivates them as and when needed. He believes he shows the way to others through his own example.

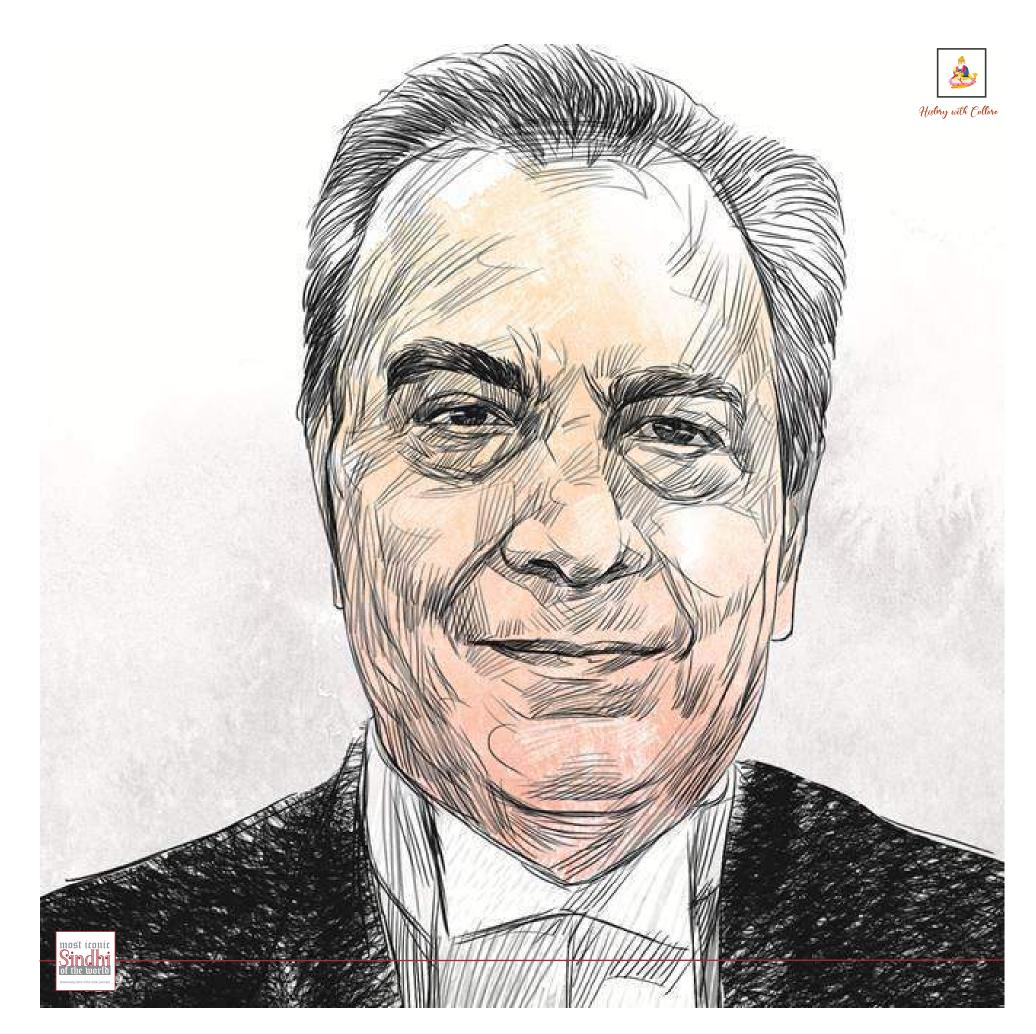
A man of tough spirits, the biggest challenge faced by him was the uprooting of their 60-year-old business base from Iran at the time of the political revolution and they had to shift it to the UK and Europe. He proudly puts it, "Spiritually, culturally and emotionally we have remained rooted in India. We brought Diwali to the Islamic world and to the UK. Today. Diwali is celebrated all over from the White House to Trafalgar Square."

Having vast experience of working with people from different parts of the world, ethnic groups and religious identities, Gopichand feels that the world needs more tolerance, love and acceptance of each other's differences. Interfaith harmony is a much-needed practice in today's world and for that purpose, he has a book named "I Am?" under publication from the Hinduja Foundation, which is set to be launched in the near future.

A man of deep values and principles, he is

happily married to his wife Sunita for the past 60 years and is blessed with three immensely brilliant and successful children who are excelling in their respective fields.

Gopichand perceives Sindhis as the champions of global trade and commerce since the advent of the glorious Indus Valley Civilization. He emphasises, "Despite being dispersed, we never let it become our weakness. Instead, we have used it to create opportunities. The world over we are the most successful community because we have made the world our home. After all, What is a home? It is a feeling, a thought, a state of mind."



Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 024

## Taking values lawfully

MAHESH JETHMALANI - Lawyer and Member of Rajya Sabha



Mahesh Jethmalani comes from a long line of lawyers and is considered by many as one the top most names in the profession of law. After completing his Bachelor's degree from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, he went to Oxford University for his Master's and completed his Law degree from the University of London. As a lawyer of high reputation, he has appeared in several important cases in the Bombay High Court and Supreme Court of India. He is also a nominated member of the upper house of Indian Parliament called Rajya Sabha by the Bhartiya Janta Party.



Mahesh Jethmalani speaking about his early life and his illustrious father, tells us, "I was born in Mumbai in the year 1967 where my family migrated from the Shikarpur district of Sindh province at the time of partition. My father, Shri Ram Jethmalani came to India with an amount of ten rupees in his pocket and rose to great eminence. As one of the finest lawyers in the country, he created a niche for himself. I have a great family tradition and I am the fourth generation of lawyers from my family. I was always fascinated by law and wanted to become a lawyer since forever. "

Being in one of the most prestigious professions, Mahesh Jethmalani holds a very respectable position because of his successful career spanning over several decades during which he has represented several high profile cases. He believes that a real leader is one who represents the masses and stays well-grounded to his roots. A voracious reader and an all time student of History, whenever Mahesh gets any spare time from his extremely busy schedule he tries to read about Geo-Politics, History and the Foreign Policy. He loves to gain knowledge incessantly. These days I am trying to improve my command over Hindi and Sindhi languages, he adds with a laugh. Mahesh believes that in a fit body resides a fit mind and therefore, concentrates largely on personal fitness and includes gymming, yoga and swimming as a part of his routine.



Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 026

"I am trying to serve my community by all best possible means. I want to tell my fellow Sindhis to believe in Jhulelal and bring out the best in life. As a community we have achieved material success and now we need to work on spiritual and intellectual planes.



He is blessed with a beautiful family that comprises his wife, Haseena Jethmalani and three kids. His daughter Serena Jethmalani is a promising lawyer and is creating a place for herself. Mahesh is very fond of Indian food and finds Sindhi cuisine to be very rich and delectable. As a man filled with humility and philanthropy, he feels that giving back to the community is very necessary.

"I am trying to serve my community by all best possible means. I want to tell my fellow Sindhis to believe in Jhulelal and bring out the best in life. As a community we have achieved material success and now we need to work on spiritual and intellectual planes. We have already proven ourselves as unmatched traders and business persons. Now we are succeeding in the cutting edge industries and lucrative professions. We are proving our excellence in all walks of life", he submits with a sense of gratification and honor.

Mahesh thinks that the project 'The most iconic Sindhis of the world', is a very important project because it will tell the story of Sindhis to the world. In his words, "We are hidden gems of society. Coming as refugees to avoid prosecution, we rose to prominence, refused to bow down and shined brightly. A highly cosmopolitan community, it forms the most enterprising diaspora and a contributing force in the economy wherever it goes. Sindhis need to look inwards and take strong measures to preserve their culture and language."





Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 028

## Clean Society for the Next Generation

SHANKAR LALWANI - Member of Partliament



Most notable figures committed for the cause of social welfare are not only known for their individual efforts but for their ability to leave a legacy, for creating opportunities for change and their tireless efforts in creating a group of volunteers who can take their cause of social development to another level. A man who has heavily invested himself towards social welfare is Shankar Lalwani, a Member of Indian Parliament from the city named Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 029



Indore city is situated in Madhya Pradesh, Central India. In the pre-independent India it was the capital city of the Maratha Holkars. It is one of the most populous cities along with being the industrial and commercial center of Central India. Indore is ranked as 'the cleanest city in India' for six times consecutively.

Born in the year 1961, Shankar Lalwani belongs to the family of Sindhi refugees who came and settled in Indore from the Shikarpur district of Sindh province of undivided India. A man who is in complete awe of his city calls it his 'happy place' and wants to dedicate himself to its all-round development. He has represented Indore in the Indian parliament since 2019. Earlier he also held the position of the chairman at Indore Development Authority along with several other key positions.

As a member of the largest political party of India, Bhartiya Janta Party and a very popular and successful political leader from Indore, Shankar Lalwani feels content in calling himself an ordinary worker of a popular Hindu nationalist volunteer organisation in India called Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

He played a key role in ensuring that proper medical facilities and assistance were rendered and streamlined at each and every level during the havoc caused by the first and second wave of coronavirus. Indore had become one of the hotspots of the coronavirus pandemic. According to the survey conducted by the popular agencies, Shankar Lalwani was awarded as the topmost public servant for his contribution during the pandemic; he was the most active Member of Parliament in the country,

During the infamous COVID times. Talking about those horrific times he admits, "I never stayed home for a single day during the pandemic and worked incessantly to help and support the general public.

My source of inspiration during those trying times was the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as he kept everyone motivated. "



A very humble man, Shankar Lalwani finds Sindhi language quite close to his heart and it is proved by the fact that he took the oath of allegiance to the constitution of India when he became Member of Parliament in his mother tongue, Sindhi. He feels that the language that defines their rich cultural heritage needs to be protected, preserved and promoted. A true Sindhi in his mind and heart, Shankar Lalwani has committed himself to social welfare. He stands like a role model for the upcoming generations of Sindhi community who can work towards the upliftment of society as a whole by the means of their career choice.





Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 032



## It is the Giving that We Receive

MUKESH THAKWANI - Group CEO, B5 Plus Holdings / Director DPSI School, Ghana



Originally, a boy from a migrant Sindhi family that settled in Baroda, Mukesh had very humble beginnings where his father ran a bakery business and he assisted his father. However, destiny had different plans for him as he dared to dream differently like many other prominent people of Sindhi origin. A man of wisdom and vision with determination to work relentlessly towards his dreams he landed in Ghana and rest is all history.

Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 033

*"There are ample opportunities and we find a way of our own. Through generations we have been very enterprising and opportunities come as God's gift to us,"* 



The word Sindhi originated from the river Sindhu (Indus River) from where the word Hindu was born.

At the time of partition, Sindhis left all their prized possessions and their motherland for the sake of their religious identity. Sindhis are renowned to be the world's largest business communities, also known for their peace loving and even-temper. Their history goes back to the glorious civilization of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. "Fortune favors the brave, is what I feel for Sindhis.

My grandfather narrated the stories of horrific times of struggle and hardships that Sindhis were succumbed to in 1947 but instead of making us bitter and frustrated those tough times made us twice hardworking and gentle", says Mukesh Thakwani, the founder of and CEO of B5 Plus Steel Company of Ghana, a company recognized as the topmost enterprise in the field of steel in whole of Western Africa.

Mukesh and his wife are also in the management of DPS School. Which is constantly giving great results to the next generations, School has won many awards. " Every award is just a recognition for the values by my forefathers."



Today he is the biggest steel manufacturer and exporter from Western Africa. Besides his steel business he has a very strong inclination towards promoting education and runs Delhi Private School in Ghana, an educational institution of high standards and reputation.

Mukesh says with a great sense of pride, "Education is very close to my heart. Apart from our school, we also provide free education to the less privileged. We also organize free medical camps. I believe in giving back to society. During the infamous COVID pandemic, we stood for the cause of humanity and tried to contribute in all possible ways that we could.

We provided free oxygen to the hospitals along with food packages, medical kits, masks and also financial assistance to those in distress. Infact he recalls a small conversation with his son- where he asked why free service for society, I replied with a simple logic 'humanity comes back to you'. In a nutshell besides creating business and paying taxes, I believe in impacting society in a positive manner. My optimism comes from my father; he was a very positive and gentle person." "There are ample opportunities and we find a way of our own. Through generations we have been very enterprising and opportunities come as God's gift to us,"

A man of strong sense of community and self-belief, he feels that Sindhis find possibilities and opportunities wherever they go. "There are ample opportunities and we find a way of our own. Through generations we have been very enterprising and opportunities come as God's gift to us," he adds.

He feels that Sindhis play a significant role in creating opportunities and contribute to the society not only economically but also philanthropically because whenever society needs help, Sindhis are the first people who come to the forefront.





Mukesh is very much in love with his rich culture, especially the culinary part of it. He regularly enjoys Sindhi food and feels that it is one of the best cuisines. Very fond of his mother tongue he implores all the Sindhis he knows to use it as a medium of interaction as much as possible at homes and social gatherings. Very optimistic about 'The Most Iconic Sindhis of the World' endeavor he thinks that the book will be seen as a reference book 50 years down the line and will positively impact the readers who will learn the success stories and life lessons of the successful entrepreneurs and business houses of the Sindhi community.





Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 038



# The Cultural Crusader

DR. RAM S. JAWHRANI- Motivation Speaker, Social Activitist, Author, Television Celebrity

"A man becomes great exactly in the degree in which he works for the welfare of his fellow-men." - Mahatma Gandhi



Dr. Ram S. Jawhrani is a stellar example, as well as an inspiration to all the Sindhis for his achievements in the post-independence era. Chairman of the Global Sindhi Council and founder of the Sahyog Foundation, his work spans across social, educational and cultural spheres. He has earned global recognition for this not only from the Sindhi community, but also the rest of the country. He has been the recipient of many awards, including the Mother Teresa Award, Jal Vayu Vihar (Defence) Award, Hemu Kalani Award, Sindhu Ratan Award and Life Time Achievement by HRD Ministry, Government of India among others.

#### "The one thing we believed in was that we should support and help the needy, and that charity should begin at home"

Born in the newly independent India, Dr. Jawhrani grew up in Ulhasnagar, Mumbai, where he completed his schooling and graduation. Those were modest times for Sindhis, including his grandparents and parents, who had left behind their roots and were attempting to start life from a scratch in mainstream India.

A large aspect of Dr. Jawhrani's persona today stems from the huge influence his grandfather had on him. "He believed in charity and always tried to keep aside a part of his income to give back to those less fortunate. He instilled in me the qualities of hard work and honesty which are my driving force even today," he shares. With an affinity for social causes already ingrained in him, Dr. Jawhrani from his adolescent years turned to creative media like theatre, movies and writing, especially the ones that conveyed an intrinsic social message.

In the years that followed, Dr. Jawhrani had many memorable firsts. He set up his first social organization called the 'Friends Circle' with his friends, with the objective of giving something back to society. "The one thing we believed in was that we should support and help the needy, and that charity should begin at home. This philosophy continues till date," he explains. Soon after, in 1973, he received his first award from the eminent 'Rajnigandha' organization at the hands of industrial tycoon S P Mandalia.

The man's most passionate project, Sahyog Foundation was founded 37 years ago. This organization helps to serve the needy, provides encouragement, promotes arts and culture including national integration, and elevates the poor.

Dr. Jawhrani fondly remembers, "We started out by distributing sewing machines to underprivileged families, to guarantee them an income. These were distributed by the cast of the TV show Mahabharat which was extremely popular at the time."



Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 040

#### "Always ready to learn to be a Leader"

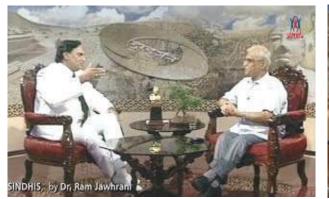


His noble work began to get noticed, and over the years, Dr. Jawhrani became a prominent figure in several renowned circles, the most popular of these being the Indian film fraternity. This helped him immensely in growing the Sahyog Foundation. With the active support from the influential, Dr. Jawhrani worked tirelessly for the betterment of not just Sindhis, but local communities at large.

The funds for these initiatives were rooted from cultural events as well. He organized programs like a Mahabharata live show, a Durga ballet by Hema Malini and even a musical show with Anu Malik. He took immense pride in local languages and also organized Sindhi singing shows with Kavita Krishnamurthi and Asha Bhosle among others.

From being a small foundation doing impactful work, Sahyog Foundation has evolved into a robust institution and forerunner in the social sphere. A popular mainstream initiative of Sahyog, the Annual Sahyog Awards celebrate and recognize achievements in the social domain across 18 different fields. Prominent personalities like Sunil Gavaskar and Dev Anand have headed their respective fields in the past, taking the value of the awards up by several notches. "In the first year we had over 10,000 applications, and this number soon grew to 20,000. It's been great to award these real heroes. One such example is that of a physically challenged man who established a school, and I managed to fulfill his dream of receiving the award from Dilip Kumar," he remembers fondly.

With its motto to 'Support the Helping Hand', Sahyog Foundation has been steadily and steadfastly achieving its goals. It has received innumerable felicitations for its work over the years, including a cover story in the Times of India, and an honorary mention by the BMC. To create awareness of social topics and appreciation of the arts, Dr. Jawhrani also regularly edits his own publication, the Sahyog Times.





Progressing in his endeavor, the broadcast medium was not far behind for him to explore and make a mark in it. He has directed two documentaries, one called 'Ulhasnagar success story of Sindhis', documenting the accomplishments of Sindhi refugees settled in Ulhasnagar and second called "Shaadi Jeevan Ji Nayi Shuruvat" based on Sindhi traditions and culture.

He has also has written a fictional drama called Daanveer as well. Both of these were picked up by Doordarshan (DD). Subsequently, DD approached him to be part of a show that recognized the contribution of Sindhis to mainstream India and the world. "I still remember, it was a Sunday afternoon, Javed Akhtar was there, and they interviewed me on live TV. They were extremely happy with this,

and soon my own interview-based talk show began in the name of 'Sindhi Sarvech," he reminisces. Dr. Jawhrani has interviewed the likes of Ram Jethmalani, L K Advani, Dr. Indira Hinduja, and Govind Nihalani on this show, which is now moving towards its 104th episode.

These interviews have been penned into two successful books; one titled 'Global Sindhis' and the other, its Sindhi version named after the talk show.

With no dearth of achievements, Dr. Jawhrani's contribution to social work is immense. He worked with UNESCO for a few years, where he took up the cause of drug use awareness and also organized events for national integration during the 90s which were trying times in Mumbai.







"I would like to tell all our youngsters across the world to honour their culture and heritage known as Sindhiyat – something that has been handed down for generations – and to take pride and responsibility in passing on the torch to future generations."



Through his work and the Global Sindhi Council of which he is the chairman, he has taken up the cause of preserving and encouraging the Sindhi language. "Our culture, our music, our poets and even our contribution to the freedom struggle is commendable and should be appreciated by all. That is what I have been striving for," he says, championing the preservation of our heritage.

On the personal front, Dr. Jawhrani was in the textile business that was established in 1970. Later, he experimented with editing studios, until he retired in 2000. Since then, he has been concentrating on social work. He believes in the virtues of education even today. In fact, he completed his MA in 2001, and his doctorate in

Sindhi literature in 2015 after the age of 68.

We ask him for some guidance of the youngsters of today and he has a heartfelt request, "I would like to tell all our youngsters across the world to honour their culture and heritage known as Sindhiyat – something that has been handed down for generations – and to take pride and responsibility in passing on the torch to future generations."

He ends the interview with an insight on how much the Sindhi community has managed to achieve, "It was said during the British Raaj that the sun never sets on the British Empire. The fact is that Sindhis have made a place for themselves across the globe. So the sun actually doesn't ever set as far as Sindhis are concerned." We can only agree with him and feel gratitude for everything he has done for the community!







Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 044

## Work in silence, let the success make noise

KAMAL FABIANI - Businessman & Philanthropist

"I believes that it is the duty of all the people of his community to work towards the growth, development and upliftment of their language and culture".



Kamal Fabiani, a man with a modest and straightforward appearance is a Madrid based Non Resident Indian businessman who originally belongs to New Delhi where he was born and raised. His father owned a waterproof paper factory that was used for packing purposes back then. Kamal moved out of India looking for new prospects and opportunities and landed up in Madrid at the age of 16 years and worked at an electronics store initially. Later on, he ventured into his own business. Kamal Fabiani is today the Managing Director of Surya Capital Madrid and has a very large real estate portfolio and investments in private equity.

#### "I calls myself indisputably a learner who will seek learning throughout his life".







Kamal has a very strong sense of respect and veneration towards his parents and the elders of his family especially his uncles who supported him from time to time in expanding his business.

A highly respected man among the NRI community of Spain, Kamal has a wide network of connections and strongly believes in maintaining good relations with everyone.

He calls his decision to invest in the IT sector in India as his greatest breakthrough in terms of business development, a move after which there was no looking back for him.

Kamal is married for almost 40 years to Rachna Fabiani and gives the credit for all his success and achievements to her. He calls her as his lucky charm. Together they are blessed with two very respectful and loving kids who are successful in their respective fields. He loves to spend his free time with his family.

He is very fond of amazingly delectable Sindhi cuisine.

Believing in god's grace he feels that the divine power had been very generous towards him and his business leadership skills further paved the way for him. Kamal calls himself indisputably a learner who will seek learning throughout his life.

He also believes that he is a leader and not a boss because he never tries to control the lives of others yet shows them the road towards success and growth. Through his life experiences, he tries to help others in discovering their hidden potentials.





"A man who believes in simplicity and keeping a low profile is a living example of someone who dares to dream and take risk and achieve the unachievable through sheer determination, faith and uprightness".



For Kamal, his community is very important and endearing to his heart. He believes that it is the duty of all the people of his community to work towards the growth, development and upliftment of their language and culture.

He says in a serious tone, "At the time of partition Sindhis lost everything and then they built everything all over again. We understand the value of everything. Our ancestors struggled a lot, our generation created a lot and the present generation needs to gear up a little more. We should not lose our culture and our language at any cost. Sindhi language is to be revived otherwise it will become extinct."

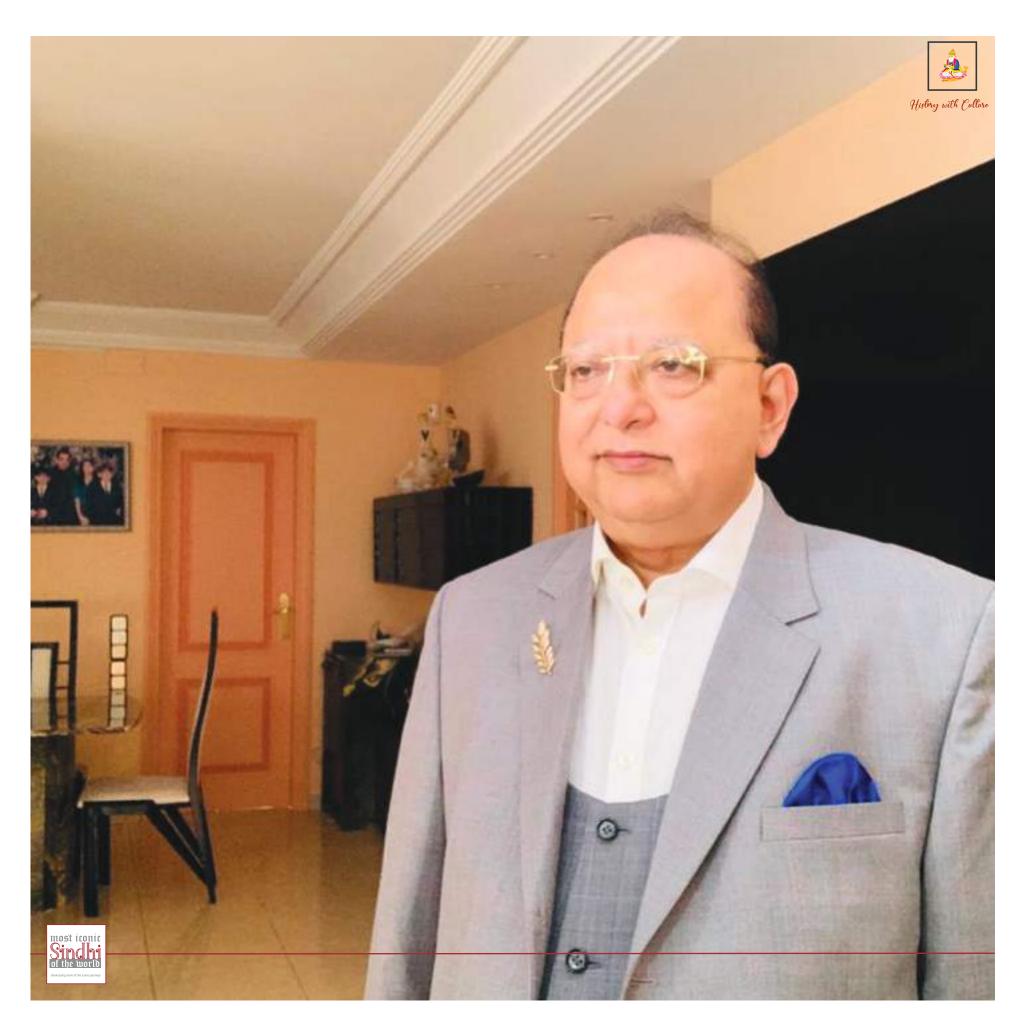
A man of strong commitments, integrity and

diligence, Kamal is a true embodiment of Sindhi spirit. He has built a big reputation for himself and today Fabiani family runs a charitable multi specialty hospital in Pune, a school in Jaipur and they have also hi built a huge temple in Madrid.

The greatest motivation behind this is the general good and welfare of all. He thinks that it is an opportunity bestowed upon him by the almighty to be at a place from where he can serve others. A man who believes in simplicity and keeping a low profile is a living example of someone who dares to dream and take risk and achieve the unachievable through sheer determination, faith and uprightness.

He thinks that the initiative like 'The Most Iconic Sindhis of the World' as a publication will portray the potential and success journey of the Sindhis people and will also accelerate the networking and connection among the right person.





Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 048



## Selflessness is a Reward

Satish Raisinghani - MD, Sanysan Appliances Pvt. Ltd



Indians residing overseas, popularly known as the Non Resident Indians are a group of people who stay and work outside the territory of India. Sindhis who migrated to India at the dawn of Indian independence became refugees within their own country and gradually settled in different states of India. Some of them moved to different parts of the world and carried their culture and heritage along. A large-scale migration and alienation from their motherland did not deter the brave heart Sindhis from safeguarding their culture, cuisine and language. "There is no substitute to hard work. During my initial days as a businessman in Barcelona sometimes I even dislodged the shipment from the containers".

Satish Wadhumal Raisinghani is the Chairman and CEO of the SOGO group of companies that primarily deals with home appliances and electronics and has business across 5 continents. The company was established in the year 1981 when Satish reached Barcelona and started his career as a traveling salesman, luck favored him and his business tremendously grew and developed. As the demand of his products increased in the market, Satish set up bigger offices and warehouses and soon SOGO became a household name for its user-friendly and innovative appliances.

The company is the biggest distributor of electronics and home appliances in almost 48 countries of the world now. Satish confides with utmost humility, "there is no substitute to hard work. During my initial days as a businessman in Barcelona sometimes I even dislodged the shipment from the containers. God blessed me with a great professional team and we designed and manufactured products to the utmost satisfaction of our customers. Today the SOGO group of companies is a respected name in the world market." Satish Raisinghani is blessed with a very beautiful wife and her name is Nisha Raisinghani. Together they are blessed with two children who have a great sense of respect and commitment towards the Sindhi culture and heritage. Satish's parents stayed with him in Barcelona till their last days and his father remained actively involved the preservation and in propagation of Sindhism in Spain. Satish says, "My parents shifted with me to Spain and soon my father realized that it was necessary to establish a Sindhi Panchayat or Association and soon it came into existence, my father remained it's president till his whole life and thereafter I chaired the association."

In his free time Satish likes to read and spend time with his wife and family as he tries to make up for all the time that he didn't spend with them due to his professional commitments.

He delights in relishing on classic Sindhi delicacies like Saibhaji, Sindhi Kadhi and Sindhi parantha. Sindhi community are highly intelligent, committed and hardworking by the grace of Lord Jhuleal and do collective charity and philanthropy whenever the society needs them. They help, encourage and support each other as harmonious citizens.



Satish is very proud of his community and feels that the contribution of Sindhi people to world civilization is seminal and enormous. He wants all the Sindhis of the world to unite and reaffirm their commitment towards their language and culture. For that purpose they are coming up with an organization called Federation of World Sindhi Association which will act as a parent body for all the Sindhi associations scattered around the world.

Satish feels that in all the spheres of human achievements especially in the business, Sindhis have undoubtedly shown their remarkable spirit of resilience and today stand as indomitable entrepreneurs, inspiring the world and largely contributing to the economies. The destiny of Sindhi culture and language lies in the hands of the present generation of Sindhis and their children. As a dedicated philanthropist, Satish feels that what he saw the elders of his family doing as a part of charity left an indelible mark on his young psyche and he strongly believes in serving his community and people of all faiths. He feels that Sindhis must help each other in all walks of life and pave the way for vital transformation in their living standards.

He feels that the people of Sindhi community

are highly intelligent, committed and hardworking by the grace of Lord Jhuleal and do collective charity and philanthropy whenever the society needs them. They help, encourage and support each other as harmonious citizens.

Satish is fully convinced that 'the most Iconic Sindhis of the world' project will enlighten the world about the contribution of eminent Sindhi personalities of present times in the economic, social and philanthropic arenas. The book will serve like a mirror of present times of Sindhi life and society for the future generations.



Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 052



### Badi Mummy ka Pratap

PRATAP RANGWANI - CEO · Al Shafar Contracting Co. / Pratap Mahal

The best thing about our community is that they don't believe in keeping it all to themselves, they believed in sharing what all good they possess for the greater good of society they live in.



Sindhi community is one of the most economically independent communities in the world with the largest number of philanthropists who contribute significantly in every possible way to create a better world for one and all. Sindhis belong to the ethnic group of people originally from the Sindh province of Pakistan, that was a part of erstwhile Indian subcontinent before the partition. They are widely considered as a community, which is business-oriented, soft-spoken and charitable in spirit.



They belong to the communities, which suffered the most during the horrific times of partition, were left landless, and became refugees in their own country. Their only possession was their spirit of resilience and insatiable quest to recover all that they lost. Because they were completely confident in the God's providence, the divine power showered them with the blessings in the form of wealth and success but the best thing about this community is that they don't believe in keeping it all to themselves, they believed in sharing what all good they possess for the greater good of society they live in. One such great personality is Pratap Rangwani, the CEO of Al Shafar Contracting Company for the past more than three decades and owns several other businesses in India and UAE.

A very wise, generous and highly dependable man is Pratap Rangwani for everyone who knows him personally. As a young boy from Ajmer, India, he was very intelligent and outstandingly receptive, he learned magic tricks from a magician and performed 15 minute magic shows and gained popularity during his student days. He displayed his innovative and quick to learning tendencies wherever he went, soon started climbing the stairs of success, and never looked back again.



*His philosophy in life is that the wealthiest are not the ones who believe in earning the most but are those who believe in giving and sharing.* 





Pratap Rangwani feels that all his success comes from the fact that he always respected his elders and believed in serving the society. He always thought of positively impacting the society and standing up for the causes that needed his support. His philosophy in life is that the wealthiest are not the ones who believe in earning the most but are those who believe in giving and sharing.

His charitable foundation called 'Badi Mummy' or 'Elderly Mother' named after his own mother who was lovingly referred to as badi mummy, works for supporting the less advantaged and marginalized sections of the Sindhi community by providing them access to a dignified living.

The family finds joy in sharing meals every now and then with the kids from underprivileged families.



Pratap confides, "I don't like to talk about doing charity. I have learned a lot from my mother. She was a woman with a golden heart; she tried to serve the people around her in every possible way. She made sure to provide water for the school kids during scorching months of summer in India. I am doing nothing but just following in her footsteps. "

Pratap Rangwani is blessed with a very loving family and is happily married to Amrit Rangwani and together they have raised a family that respects and honors Sindhi values and its rich customs.

He is a voracious reader and loves to learn about various things through the medium of reading books. He tells joyously, "I like reading books in my free time. These days I am reading books published by the Swami Vivekananda Mission and trying to unravel the philosophy of Vivekananda. I am also reading Vedas and Upanishads that throw light on the fact that how basic our lives are."



"I like reading books in my free time. These days I am reading books published by the Swami Vivekananda Mission and trying to unravel the philosophy of Vivekananda. I am also reading Vedas and Upanishads that throw light on the fact that how basic our lives are."



Pratap Rangwani feels very sad about the fact that the sindhis have lost their motherland forever and after partition how their lives and destiny changed permanently.

He feels very concerned about the fact that

Sindhi culture needs to be safeguarded from the fast paced changes that are coming in the world that is looking towards the west for all its inspiration. Sindhi language should be given priority in the sindhi households otherwise it will slowly wane out, he feels. Very optimistic about the project 'the Most Iconic Sindhis of the world' he says"50 years down the line this book will be seen as a piece of historical document of the times we are living in."



Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 058

#### Blue Chip

# Living a dream

#### SURAJ JUMANI - Owner, Blue Chip of Companies, Actor & Motivator

When speaks about Dubai, one one spontaneously thinks about the feeling it gives to all. It is like a home away from home, a country that owns everyone. An inclusive and welcoming country where best of both east and the west meet says Suraj Jumani, the creator of 'I Love Dubai' song which was launched on the occasion of National day and became an immediate hit and is still continuing to break the records. The song seems like a tribute to the city of hopes, dreams and lights. According to Jumani," when my company, Bluechip Entertainment moved into the field of music, I decided to dedicate my first song to the city that had given wings to my dreams.





I have been in Dubai since past 11 years and got the finest opportunities to achieve my pursuits. This song is like me paying my respects to this wonderful land. The video of this song displays the original feel of the city, the day-to-day life, confluence of cultures, the beautiful architecture, the blend of multiple nationalities. The video of this song features popular personalities namely Chris Gayle, Sania Mirza, Sreesanth and Chirag Suri. It is an ode to this generous city and its inhabitants."

Adorned with the treasure of multiple professional experiences, journey of Suraj Jumani has been marked by authenticity, value driven leadership and purposefulness.

A Sindhi belonging to the family of turmeric

traders of Shikarpur region of Sindh province who later settled and expanded their business in Bangalore, Suraj spent all his childhood and youth in southern India before he came to Dubai 11 years ago.

Dubai gave him an opportunity to explore and reach to the diversity of life in the form of multiple cultural interactions.





"I believe in culture values and I always keep the balance with personal and professional life"

Originally, a banker by profession he worked with the renowned banking organizations like Standard Chartered and RAK bank before starting his own company, Bluechip Investments. The company dealt in the wealth management before it ventured into music and entertainment.

As an energetic self-starter, Suraj considers himself as a learner. He says that learning is a life long journey, which he finds in every human interaction and life experiences. He tries never to miss a chance to learn and to evolve. He considers himself neither a boss nor a leader but a friend who empowers, supports and creates platforms for the future leaders. A man who is exceptional in his effects and impacts, Suraj finds his motivation in his dreams and tries to achieve them by keeping everyone involved with a great sense of team work.



He speaks with lots of affection about his lovely wife and a one-year-old daughter with whom he loves to spend all his spare time. Other than spending time with his family, he has a passion for photography, a talent that he inherited from his father. Suraj is also very fond of traditional Sindhi food and travelling far and wide.

In a complete awe and respect towards his community, Suraj puts it with a sense of pride," Sindhis do a lot of charity. Sindhi society is not a conservative society. They are very modern in their approach. They are entrepreneurial by birth and women also play a pivotal role when it comes to doing business. It is the duty of us as the elders now that we educate our children about our rich language and culture.









The venture like 'the Iconic Sindhis of the World' is an exciting concept that will bring forth the beauty of Sindhi life and society. The book will be very impactful and will give huge recognition to the eminent personalities from the community. This book will surely create a big impact and will reach to the right kind of people."

With all that he has accomplished so far Suraj believes, he has a long way to go.



"Sindhis have great potential we must share our learning and values to others as well"



#### тесн mahindra

### A Remarkable Business Mentor

CHANDER PRAKASH GURNANI- CEO & Managing Director -Tech Mahindra

'jahaan jiyu, tahaan sikhu'



Born on 19 December 1958, Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh, CP Gurnani is the Chief Executive Officer of Tech Mahindra Satyam. Known among his peer group as CP, he is an accomplished business leader with substantial experience in international business development, joint ventures, mergers, acquisitions and startups, CP has played an important role in the business transformation of the Mahindra Group and the acquisition and merger of Satyam. "Education is like oxygen. It is the only ticket for a better future and I suggest every youth of the nation should purchase one."



In his illustrious career spanning to over 40 years, he has held significant positions at various corporate giants and has also served as the chairperson of NASSCOM for the year 2016-17.

A chemical engineer by profession, his passion for education reverberates with the several efforts he has made in the field of propagating education and the honorary positions he holds conferred to him from different educational organizations. He has also founded an NGO named 'Titliyan' that works towards spreading quality education and developing skills of the unprivileged children with a view of educating future citizens and a better world. He states in a delighted tone, "Education is like oxygen. It is the only ticket for a better future and I suggest every youth of the nation should purchase one. There is a pressing need for digital literacy. In addition, it is our responsibility to enable our youth to shoulder our share of social and economic responsibilities towards building our nation."

CP had been conferred with CEO's Choice Lifetime Achievement Award 2021- the nation's highest independent civilian award. He has been felicitated with many more awards and accolades like CEO of the Year Award by

a Raymond, Most Inspiring Business Leader of
is Asia by Economic Times, Business Icon of India
by Zee Business and multiple more awards of a
e. kind.

He has also been featured in a Harvard Case Study on 'Tech Mahindra and the Acquisition of Satyam Computers.'

Son of a Narcotics Officer, CP has learnt many important lessons of life like common sense, budgeting, perseverance, persistence and resilience from his parents, he puts it with a sense of affection, "cherishing the memories of my parents is my way of holding on to the people I have loved the most".

#### "I firmly believe, everyone is and can be a leader, meaning everyone matters and can bring something to the table."

An outstanding business leader who has an entrepreneurial style of working believes in the motto "work hard and play hard," and he applies it in every aspect of his life. He submits, "Although work is my passion, I believe to have interests other than work to get away from my daily stresses of life. My biggest stress buster is probably food and spending time with my family and friends. I am a people's person and I love to interact. I believe communication is very important to keep us connected with each other." Believing in the popular Sindhi adage 'jahaan jiyu, tahaan sikhu' which means there's no end to learning and one learns wherever he goes and as long as he is alive, CP calls himself a perpetual learner. Considering himself a leader he puts it rightly, "I firmly believe, everyone is and can be a leader, meaning everyone matters and can bring something to the table."

CP is blessed with a wonderful family. His wife, Anita formerly worked with the Canadian High Commission. She has also produced an award winning documentary film, 'The Art of Shantiniketan', based on contemplating Bengali Art. He is blessed with two kids, one boy and one girl, both are pursuing higher studies.

A true Sindhi at heart he sees Sindhi community as peace loving and a perfect business minded group of people, he says "over the years Sindhis have become synonymous with business not just in India but around the world. Sindhis started from scratch in India and soon went on to become major contributors in the fields of education, law, politics, real estate, art and comedy among others. "





Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 068



#### I choose to be Kind

DILIP LAKHI - Diamond Merchants & Philanthropist

"I am always content with my present state of business. I consider myself as an accountant of God".



Dilip Lekhi's family hails from the world famous city of Shikarpur, now in Pakistan. They were primarily engaged in the agricultural produce trading and jewelry business which also had some activity in Sukkur. Some of their relatives were involved in the Hundi business, which is akin to the present day banking system. Few of Lekhi's relatives resided and conducted business in the city of Bukhara (in present-day Uzbekistan). "We do not own even our very bodies, what to speak of our wealth. He believes that he is just a custodian who had received wealth from God and now returning to Him what belongs to Him".



Dilip recalls, the reason why his family left Sindh,"My grandfather had died and my father went to collect his share of the agricultural produce and the farmers simply refused to hand it over, citing the exhortations of the Muslim League that he who sowed has the sole right on the harvest. My family knocked at the doors of the government and ultimately succeeded in obtaining their rightful share but by then the environment had been vitiated and they decided to leave the place before partition as an act of prudence." The family eventually shifted to Jaipur after renouncing their properties, land-holdings, houses, shops and business in Sindh and started their business in coloured stones.

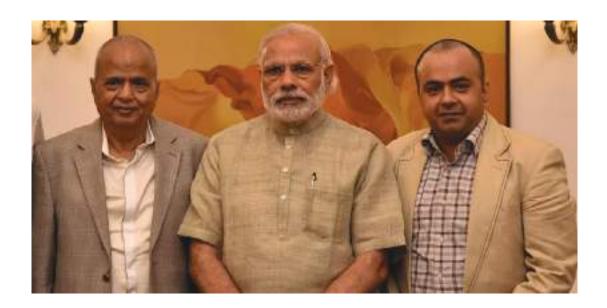
Very deeply affected by his father's honestly

and dedication towards business, Dilip says, "I am always content with my present state of business. I consider myself as an accountant of God. Whenever my accountant fails to satisfy me, I fire him. Likewise, if I fail to satisfy God, he would punish me. I emphasize on "customer trust" and ensure that I strive to satisfy him.

In addition, with the grace of God, I have been highly successful in my business". Dilip's father took a step forward in the field of charity and established 'Lakhi Trust' to equip the lower income groups of the society to secure a decent livelihood.

Dilip Lakhi, has given 40 kg of gold to Somnath temple, also contributed a total of 109 kg Gold to the shrine for beautification of various parts of the Shiva temple. In 2013 he purchased Cadbury House near Breach Candy. He says that we do not own even our very bodies, what to speak of our wealth. He believes that he is just a custodian who had received wealth from God and now returning to Him what belongs to Him. Lakhi makes all donations by cheque -not a single paisa in cash -and monitors the use of funds.

It also provides scholarships to the needy students for the furtherance of their educational goals. It helps with medicines to ailing and needy people. The trust extends help at times of calamities. A man filled with humility and generosity, Dilip doesn't call the activities as a work of charity but a decree of God. "We not only consider Sindh, but also Hind our own. Water takes the shape of the vessel in which it is stored. We can help ourselves by helping others, and this way preserve our identity and culture."



Dilip strongly believes in the concept of one divine power who is worshipped by several names. He believes that the hardwork, honesty and friendly demeanor of Sindhis helps them in establishing themselves wherever they go.

He suggests the younger generation of Sindhis to get actively involved in promoting their cultural heritage "We should regularly hold 'Jhulelal Festivals' at different places. We should involve the entire Sindhi community actively in such endeavors to create awareness about our old traditions among the youth.

Also, we must celebrate Sindhi festivals so that the participation of our youth in these festivals might rekindle their interest in 'Sindhyat', and for that we must also encourage art, music and literature and all such activities in order to achieve our objective." Dilip firmly believes that there lies a glorious future for his community as Sindhis always think about the welfare of others.

He puts beautifully, "We not only consider Sindh, but also Hind our own. Water takes the shape of the vessel in which it is stored. We can help ourselves by helping others, and this way preserve our identity and culture. "

An extract from Dr Ram Jawhrani's book – Global Sindhis Part II



Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 072



## A Couple powered by God

DR. SURESH ADVANI - Oncologist, Awardee of Padma Bhushan & Padma Shri GEETA ADVANI - Managing Trustee Helping Hand 4 Cancer Care



There are some people who take a step back outside of themselves and look at society as their family. These inspiring men and women try to leave an impact and contribute through their abilities and skills. One such example is of Dr Suresh Advani and his wife Geeta Advani who despite several challenges and setbacks remained undaunted and did their best possible to make a difference in the lives of the people.



#### "Service to man is service to God."

They are living examples of the popular saying, 'Service to man is service to God.' Dr Suresh Advani is the leading Oncologist of India who is instrumental in bringing stem cell transplantation in the country. He suffered from polio at an age of 8 years but through his strong will power proved that if you have ambition to achieve something then sky's the limit.

Dr Suresh Advani tells, "I cannot recall anything about Sindh as I was born on August 1, 1947. We migrated on August 15, 1947, which obviously left me no time to know anything about Sindh. We lived in Karachi. My maternal grandparents belonged to Sukkur. My father was a businessman in Karachi. We migrated to Devlali.

I did my primary schooling at Sindh Cosmopolitan High School Ghatkopar and that too in Sindhi medium.

Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 074

They emphasize more on awareness, so that the patient has no fear from it and contacts the doctor immediately. In the memory of their beloved daughter they have started a multispeciality hospital in Kerala named Smita Memorial Hospital and Research Center.



After completing my S.S.C., I obtained my college education at Somaiya College, Mumbai. I did my M.B.B.S. from Grant Medical College, Mumbai. Thereafter, I got experience from Royal Maskin Hospital, London and then from Fed Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre, Seattle, USA. I studied about blood cancer and bone marrow transplantation in that Institute.

My reason to choose this field was because cancer was regarded as an incurable disease. There appeared a vast scope for research in this field. It was also a great challenge. I started with blood cancer and later on, I got complete knowledge about other branches of cancers".

His wife Geeta Advani played a very vital role in his life and stood like a strong pillar of support through all his endeavours. She tells us, "I was born in Kerala. I'm from a Christian family. I worked as nurse and met Dr Suresh at Tata Memorial Hospital. We married after six months and I left my job to take care of my family. We were blessed with two children. I always stood by him and supported him unconditionally." Dr Suresh and Geeta are involved in several charitable and philanthropic activities, they also initiated a mobile unit, which goes out and performs Mammography test (for breast cancer) at the patient's place. Also working on cervical cancer as well as uterus cancer.

They emphasize more on awareness, so that the patient has no fear from it and contacts the doctor immediately. In the memory of their beloved daughter they have started a multispeciality hospital in Kerala named Smita Memorial Hospital and Research Center.



Winner of many distinguished awards and honours including most coveted Padmashree and Padma Bhushan, Dr Suresh implores the present generation, "First of all, we must be proud of our origin, about being a Sindhi and being inheritors of the ancient and highly civilized nation.

Then, we have to communicate with other people and educate them about our past, so that we are looked upon with respect by others".



Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 076



*"First of all, we must be proud of our origin, about being a Sindhi and being inheritors of the ancient and highly civilized nation".* 

On personal side, Dr Suresh says "Certainly! I love music. I have many Sindhi cassettes and CDs, which I enjoy listening to in my vehicle while commuting. I am acquainted with many Sindhi artists too" while his wife Geeta Advani says that she prefers a simple living and has dedicated all her life for serving him and the society at large. Sindhis are happy everywhere, whether in India or abroad. They create their own world everywhere, though they have prospered on the alien shores. It is sheer hard work and the intuition immensely of Sindhis that has enabled them to reach such heights. Now there is no looking back for them, Dr Suresh adds with a sense of confidence and affection in his community.

An extract from Dr Ram Jawhrani's book – Global Sindhis Part II

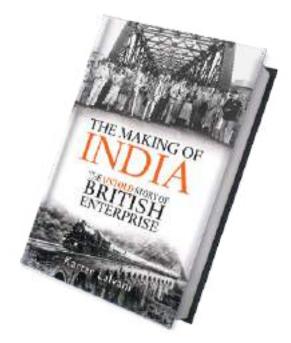


Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 078

#### VITABIOTICS

## Vitamin for community

DR. KARTAR LALVANI - President, Vitabiotics, UK #1 Vitamin Company



*"At Partition the literacy rate of Sindhis was 95% compared to the average literacy rate of 25% in India. We were the real sufferers. Completely uprooted!"* 

Dr. Kartar Lalwani born in 1931, Karachi, where I was born in 1931. His grandfather was a railway employee while his father had a chemist shop. It was named J. Tirth & Co., and was established in 1920. When the business grew large, they began manufacturing medicines in 1935. He studied in Model High School, Karachi and after partition, he completed his matriculation from Sindhi Premier High School and later on, Jai Hind College, Bombay.

Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 079



Dr Kartar can very well read and write Arabic-Sindhi. After graduation, he studied Pharmacy from Ahmedabad and then he went to London for further studies. From there, to Bonn, Germany to pursue doctorate in 'Pharmaceutical Chemistry'.

For partition he recalls "We were certainly impacted, but to a lesser extent. We had to leave all our business and assets behind. The Sikhs were faced with a greater threat as the Muslims who migrated from the undivided Punjab considered Sikhs their prime targets. At that time, I was 16 years old and quite active in politics. I kept myself abreast by reading newspapers. We used to travel all the way to Ulhasnagar from Colaba to help the Sindhis to settle down. I saw for myself the depressing condition of Sindhis. The most educated and civilized community was struggling for its very survival. At that time, the literacy rate of Sindhis was 95% compared to the average literacy rate of 25% in India. We were the real sufferers. Completely uprooted!"

He intended to come back from London after the completion of his studies to join his father in the drug manufacturing business. However, after his doctorate, as he was keen to do further research so he stayed back in Germany. After some time his brother also joined him along with parents followed after winding up the business in 1962-63. He was the first Indian to manufacture medicines in the United Kingdom in 1965. Later he spread his business outside England too and opened another factory in Nigeria in 1970. This process of expansion brought us back to Bombay, where he established a factory in 1980. He was the first to introduce a sugar-free cough syrup in India, which even diabetic patients could consume. He also introduced a sugar-free antacid. He also make various vitamin preparations to improve general health and keep ailments at bay.

Out of twenty-five products, women use six of them during pregnancy to take care of calcium deficiency, skin care, hair loss, etc. For that, he received the Queen's Award for Excellence in England.





Besides he has received several awards, one was for business leadership, another for science from the Ministry of Science. One of his medicines was used for the treatment of HIV. It was tested by a hospital in London and when, after three years trial in a government hospital it was cleared for commercial usage, it made world news in AIDS Journal. Also he has received 'Asian of the Year'.

His son Tej, is also a scientist at Oxford, the youngest professor of medicine at Oxford and head of T.B. He had been interviewed by B.B.C. News T.V. channel several times. The Indian High Commission had also conferred an Award of "Scientist of the Year".

"Sindhis hold high esteem for their culture, presentation, business acumen, social outlook and professional work. Which is visible now all over the world". In UK, we promote Sindhi culture among other non-resident Indians. We also invite members of the British Parliament and work earnestly in this respect. People over there consider me to be a Sikh and not a Sindhi, but I emphasize upon my Sindhi lineage and tell them that Sindhis are the most cultured and straight forward people".

"My main activities are confined to the UK. However, I do take interest in International Sindhi Sammelans, which are aimed at raising awareness among the Sindhis of the world. We also participate in our festivals, like Cheti Chand, Diwali in London, as well in Nigeria and I have quite a good influence on them. He says "Sindhis are very charitable. Even the establishment of Ravindra Nath Tagore's Shanti Niketan, was due to many Sindhis, although Sindhis were a minority community and small in number even Netaji Subhash Chander Bose was helped by the Sindhis of Singapore, Hong Kong and Afghanistan, morally as well as financially.

He feels Sindhi Sammelans can bring unity among the Sindhis on a global scale which would benefit the community and go a long way towards saving our language.

Dr Kartar also has great relationship with Royal family of UK. He is often been invited to parties held in their palace.



An extract from Dr Ram Jawhrani's book – Global Sindhis Part II



Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 082

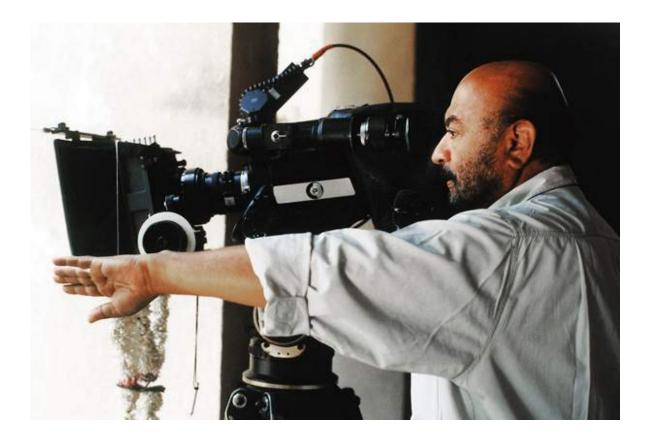
### Redefined glory of Indian Cinema

GOVIND NIHALANI - Prominent Film Director, Cinematographer, Screenwriter & Producer,



There are some filmmakers who through their Midas touch produce some timeless visual gems. Their themes, technical prowess, story-telling, idealism and impact that they leave on the audience becomes an inspiration for many aspiring filmmakers. One such credible name is Govind Nihalani, the world-famous film director from Bollywood was born on 19 August 1940 in Karachi, now in Pakistan. His family migrated to India during the partition of 1947. He started out as a cinematographer, graduating in cinematography from the Shri Jayachamarajendra Polytechnic in Bangalore in 1962.

He was an Assistant Cinematographer to the legendary V.K. Murthy. Nihalani was associated with all the earlier films of Shyam Benegal. He also handled the cinematography of Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning epic 'Gandhi'. Both Nihalani and Benegal are well known for their socially relevant films.



His first directorial venture was 'Akrosh,'which was based on a real story. The film made a huge impact on the audiences all over India.

It shared the Golden Peacock Award for best film at the International Film Festival of India held in New Delhi in 1981.

His film Ardh Satya , is still remembered by film lovers, it changed forever the way in which Indian cinema portrayed the police as it exposed in stark detail the police-politiciancriminal nexus. In 1997, he made another classic - Hazaar Chaurasi ki Maa that won great critical reviews.

Over the years, he has directed many films,

which are known for the manner in which they grab the viewer's attention, and his most recent work is the 2004 film, Dev.

About his initial years, he says, "As far as I can remember, we belonged to a little known town of Gambar in Sindh, and my father did business at New Challi, Karachi, where we had a four storied building of our own. Just faint images.

I can visualize that building in Karachi and an almond tree outside the courtyard; I was just a child at the time of partition, as kids we assembled on the terrace of the building and raised slogans 'Inquilab Zindabad', probably we had heard them in streets, and they echoed in our memories. My uncle tried to stop us from doing so as he was afraid of retaliation from the authorities."

He obtained his early education at Udaipur, India "though my father taught me Hindi at home. He himself used to write Hat-Vanki (an ancient script of business and trade used predominantly by Sindi traders). I had also learnt it, but presently I have forgotten it. I think it was some ancient script".



Commenting on the absence of their own state he says, "Unfortunately, we Sindhis do not have our own state, which can provide a fertile ground for our language and culture to grow and prosper. Under these circumstances, it becomes our duty to think about it and devise some ways and means to work for the preservation and progress of our language. At least, we ourselves should speak, read and write in the Sindhi language and introduce it to our children. This can't be blamed on the community per se; we have to take this responsibility on our own shoulders, individually. Whatever every individual Sindhi does in this regard is more important than what the community is doing in this field. "

Nihalani remembers many disturbing incidents that he experienced and heard from

his elders which left a huge impact on his psyche and he portrayed them adroitly in his critically acclaimed tele-film 'Tamas''. He says, "I had gone through many works of fiction on the subject. I can read Sindhi language, had gone through Sindhi books but I could not find a suitable book on partition in Sindhi. When I read 'Tamas', it clicked, and then I decided to make it for television. The rest is history."

His message to the Sindhi community is that it is the duty of every Sindhi individual to work towards safeguarding and promoting their cultural legacy. He says in an emphasizing tone, "We have to make our children aware of their identity. Just talks will not do.

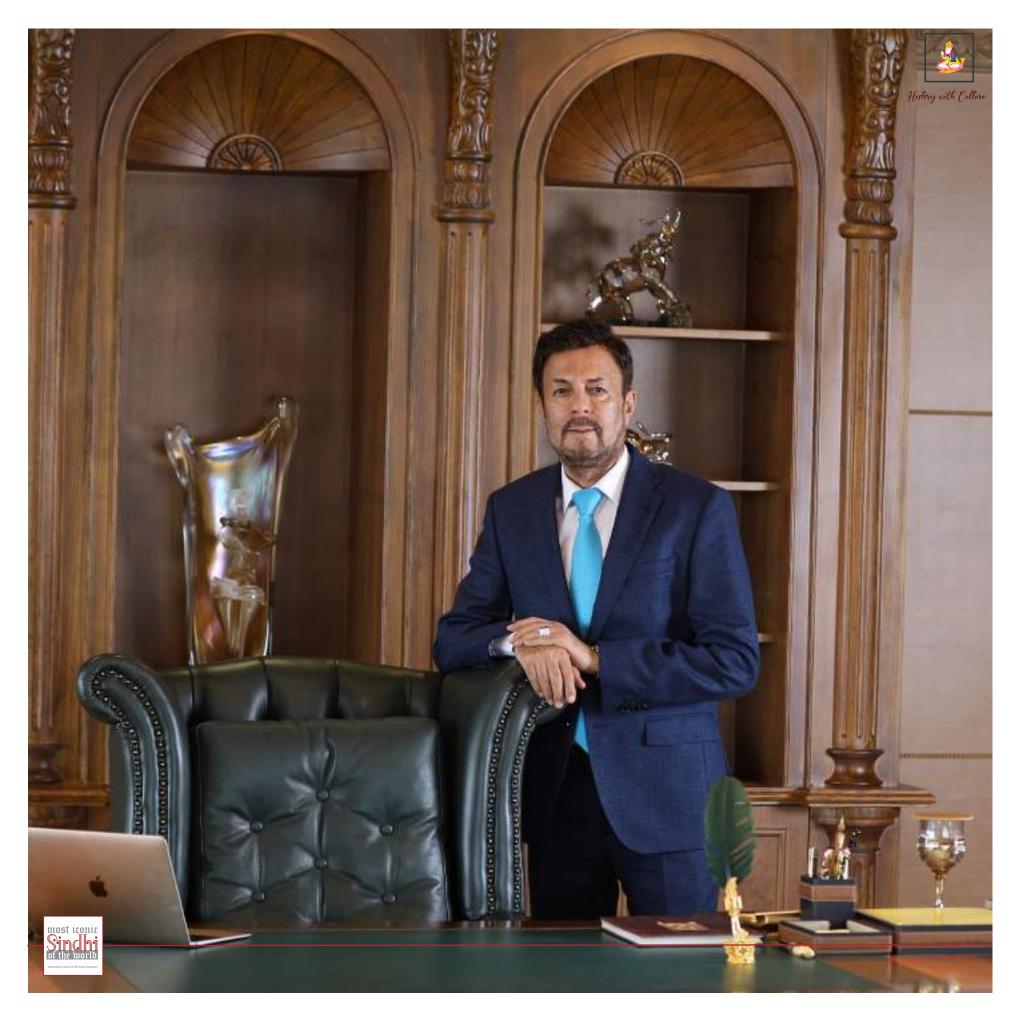
We have to educate our children about our glorious past, introduce them to our history,

and a sense of pride needs to be inculcated in them. We can use cinema, but then profits would have to take a backseat. We can take projects of Sindhi history in that connection. This effort must be an investment for our future generations. This way, we can save our culture."

He has been conferred with several awards and honors for his outstanding contribution to the world of cinema, noteworthy are Padma Shri, Filmfare Award for Best Director, National Film Award for Best Feature Film, Filmfare Award for Best Cinematography, and National Film Award for Best Cinematography, Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration, Filmfare Critics Award for Best Film.

An extract from Dr Ram Jawhrani's book – Global Sindhis Part II





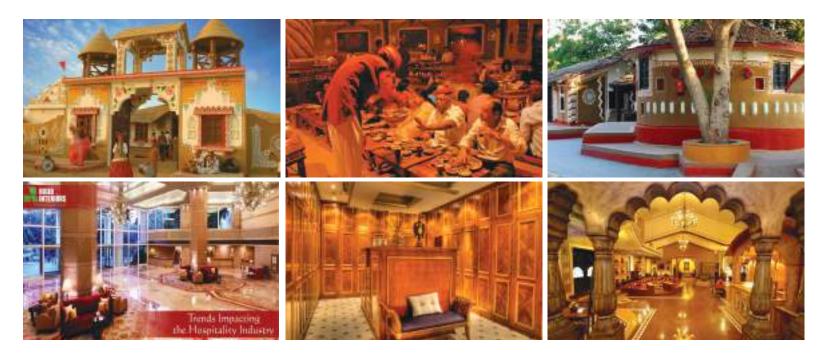
Most Iconic Sindhis of the World 086



### Let food be thy medicine

GUL VASWANI - Chairman Chokhi Dhani Group and Rigid Group

"Sindhis have seen the real transformation of life in last century...we must tell all".



All we need today is to understand and propagate the dignity and richness embedded in our culture, traditions and language and dedicate ourselves towards emboldening Sindhism, instilling in our children the Sindhi-centric legacy of

optimism, meticulousness and honesty, says Gul Vaswani, the chairman of Chokhi Dhani, an internationally popular food chain that represents Rajasthani gastronomic culture and its experience in all its astounding brilliance.

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Gul Vasvani's father was the chairman of Rajasthan Municipal Corporation and his family belonged to a very affluent family of Hindu Sindhi zamindars back in Sindh before the partition took place. Despite coming from a well to do family, Gul started his career on humble notes when being a BITS Pilani graduate, in mid 1970s he started working as a driver with Al Sharaf Group in Dubai just to explore his potential and see the outside world. Soon he realized that his calling was something else, it was a food industry that caught his interest and the rest is history. The legendary Chokhi Dhani today has outlets in more than 22 countries in the world.

A very genuine and upright man, Gul Vaswani is in complete adulation of the UAE and feels that this land fulfills the dreams of everyone who is ready to work undeterringly hard towards his goal. He considers himself a perpetual learner and feels open to learning from everyone and anywhere, he also believes in sharing the wise insights that life experiences have taught him.



He is one of the most humane, gentle and approachable persons and considers himself to be a leader who loves his team and leads them lovingly through every thick and thin. He treats his employer as his family members and had always tried to create a congenial and happy atmosphere at workplace.

Gul is blessed with a beautiful family. His children are doing well and his illustrious daughter Kirti is carrying his legacy forward through her insightful and resourceful style of working. Gul feels that the Sindhi community is replete with amazingly creative and ingenious entrepreneurs who have brought enormous glory and grandeur to the community despite all the hardships that had befallen on them.

He feels that the untapped goldmine of the rich Sindhi language needs to be explored and promoted on a conscious note in order to ensure cultural prosperity and development. It is a high time, Sindhi folks realise that the Sindhi customs, traditions and language are the assets and determining forces of Sindhi community. Sindhis have achieved economic independence and now the need of the hour is to re-capture, reset and restore the rich cultural heritage and empower younger generation to create a way through their inventiveness and diligence, he says with great hope and assertion.

"he untapped goldmine of the rich Sindhi language needs to be explored and promoted on a conscious note in order to ensure cultural prosperity and development.".



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### Adding Taste to the World

DR. HARISH TAHLIANI- Managing Director, Arab India Spices



There are several success stories of leading entrepreneurs but the most motivational ones are of the those who rise from the humble beginnings and reach to the top. Their hard work, dedication, resilience with a tinge of luck makes them the paradigm of success. One such story is of Harish Tahiliani, the Managing Director of Arab India Spices LLC, known today as the global leader in the pulses and spices industry especially in the MENA region. As a bonafide brand name they have created a trust network all over the globe with a supply chain covering the Far East, Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, North America and Australia. Owing to his excellent business output Harish has received several awards and accolades. He has featured three times in the Forbes List among top Indian Business leaders. "In Dubai you just need to follow the rules and rest everything comes smoothly"



Harish comes from a business family of a small town named Nadiad, situated near Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

They had a very humble beginning where his father owned a traditional spice mill along with his uncles. Gradually luck favored them and their business started expanding. Sindhis are very popular for filling the gaps in the market. There were no grinding mills and processing plants in the UAE at the time so his father saw an opportunity and decided to invest in the UAE. In 1994 Harish joined the business in Dubai and never looking back. Our business was growing well in the UAE, my father needed more helping hands, hence it was not easy to leave many things and resettle those days, but today we are the second largest millers of the world. Nothing went in vain. I feel blessed and rewarded. Being a Sindhi therefore, a natural entrepreneur; with a full guidance and support from his father.

Harish took upon himself to continuously learn and get acquainted with the market trends to further expand his business in the Middle East and the rest of the world. He considers UAE by far as the most business-friendly country in the world and gives the credit to the rulers of Dubai who have made business model very smooth and easy. "In Dubai you just need to follow the rules and rest everything comes smoothly", he pronounces.

As a business leader he says with utmost clarity that it is sometimes difficult to act like a boss. It is important to have good conversational skills and balanced emotional reaction to the situations, you cannot carry the same mood or emotion throughout the day, he believes.



Entrepreneurship is not an easy task, you have to work towards better output each day, there are no shortcuts or alternatives to hard work; he submits with utmost humility.

When asked about his activities during his free times Harish happily tells, "I love working out. I try it all - yoga, pilates, running, walking, cycling. I enjoy listening to music and watching old classics. I am exceptionally passionate about astrology and follow it religiously." Harish is a very religious man and believes in seeking God's blessings as the first thing each day. His success as a Sindhi entrepreneur, his balanced life style and his remarkable contributions towards business development brought him a great acclaim. have Undoubtedly he is one of the top emerging business leaders, the largest importer of food items in the UAE. A true inspiration to many, Harish advices the sindhi youth that hard work truly reaps rewards. Younger generation of Sindhis is deeply affected by the western thoughts therefore, he advises that they should be gradually involved into business and even they can sign up to small tasks and they can volunteer to enhance their skills and build their confidence.

Harish truly adores his family and is extremely proud of his twin daughters and a son who are wonderfully accomplishing in their fields. He believes his beautiful wife and he himself have passed on the values of Sindhi culture like determination, perseverance and zest for life into their children very well.

He thinks that the initiative like, "Iconic Sindhis of the World" will act like a big platform to showcase the exemplary Sindhi personalities and their life journey at a global level, bringing out everything positive, wonderful and beautiful about his community and its people.





# Success belongs to Hardworking

#### INDER T JAISINGHANI - Chairman & MD, Polycab India Limited



Sindh region is named after Indus/Sindhu River and the people residing in the region were called Sindhis. The region had a strategic importance and thus, became a center of business and trade since time immemorial. At the time of partition, the population of Sindhi Hindus emigrated from the region and settled in different parts of India and other parts of the world. As a group of people they stand out for their cutting-edge skills, innovativeness and ingenuity. Wherever they are placed they play a decisive role in contributing to the economic growth of that region. Their entrepreneurial prowess, their faith in human capital development and their spirit of resilience is widely acknowledged. There are some entrepreneurs who have established themselves as one the living examples of Sindhi spirit of self-reliance and dedication and one such name is of Inder Jaisinghani, Chairman and Managing Director of Polycab Company, a leading manufacturer of electrical wires and cables in India.



### 'work is worship.'

The company was established in the year 1986 and in 2014 it ventured into manufacturing electric fans, LED lights and switches. Speaking about his early life, Inder Jaisinghani says, "I had to drop off from my school at a young age because of my father's untimely demise. My elder brother had set up a modest factory and gradually we all four brothers joined the business. The starting was humble and we had to work very hard, but we all loved our work. God was kind and the increasing market demand doubled our task and we had to set up several factories over the period of time. Rest is all history. "

Inder Jaisinghani is a very loving and affectionate person and believes in the strength of human relations. Most important asset in our lives is not money but our investment in the relationships, he says with a beaming face. Whenever required, he has played an outsized role in defining the financial and philanthropic development of his community. He considers his family as his most prized possession and loves to spend time with them.

More so he treats his staff members and his clients also as a part of his extended family and maintains very cordial relations with everyone. As a man of high ambition and much higher potential, Inder Jaisinghani does not believe in work-life balance, but for him 'work is worship.'



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A true believer in Almighty, he thinks that God has already blessed him in abundance and it is his duty to add value to the society. A man who stands as an inspiration for many aspiring entrepreneurs, he seems to be very confident about the economic prosperity of his community.

He feels that Sindhi people need to work extraordinarily hard to make their cultural legacy flourish and prosper. "We Sindhis have made a good name in the world of business but we have to work hard and promote our language. We must all try to use it as a medium of interaction at our homes," he adds.

A man of compassion, humility and gratitude, Inder Jaisinghani is a true epitome of Sindhi spirit. He believes in selflessly giving back to society with all the good he has with himself to offer.

"The Sindhi people are filled with hunger for growth and success and it is a high time their story needs to be told to the world. A community with a huge population that is very resourceful remains unexplored for centuries now, their achievements and success stories need to be displayed and the book 'most iconic Sindhis of the world', will play a vital role in this direction," he concludes with deep faith and confidence. "We Sindhis have made a good name in the world of business but we have to work hard and promote our language. We must all try to use it as a medium of interaction at our homes,"





# Success Mantra is just Hard-Work

JAGDISH RAIMALANI - Director, Simian International FZE



Highly enterprising and industrious as they are Sindhi people have been a source of inspiration to all who dare to dream big and strive to achieve their dreams, irrespective of any odds that come their way. Sindhis are the thinkers, exhibit a high-octane motivational diligence, and have built a legacy wherever they have been around the world. Jagdish Raimalani, the Director of Simian International FZE in Dubai, UAE is a man who is filled with energy and vigor when it comes to his work, he strives to give out his best. He believes that for a businessman it is extremely important to be farsighted and ambitious, these are the lethal weapons through which one can conquer it all. "one must get out of the comfort zone, if you want success"

Remembering about his past he submits, "My family settled in Jaipur post- partition but I was brought up in Mumbai. Then I moved to Jaipur to join my brother's business who dealt in jewelry, soon I also started my own jewelry store but did not find it enjoyable. I decided to spread my wings and came to Dubai. Today I deal in the financial market and feel very confident and comfortable in this work. My work makes me happy and satisfied."

Jagdish feels that a true Sindhi businessman is always a visionary, he thinks ahead of his times, creates opportunities, builds on the required skills and through self-discipline creates a path of success. His advice to everyone is to be competent enough to build a legacy. Jagdish says with a sparkle in his eyes, "If we set any goals for ourselves then the sky's the limit, we must exceed all the expectations and bring value to the lives of ourselves and of others."

My magic mantra is that one must get out of the comfort zone. "I myself work for 16 hours a day. We need to get hard on ourselves in order to achieve something big in life. "



A man of simple living and high thinking, Jagdish truly adores his family and takes out a day every week from his busy schedule to spend time with them and de-stresses himself of all the clutter. He feels that his children will inherit the virtues of commitment, perseverance and dedication from their parents.

A man of actions and not merely words, Jagdish believes there are no free lunches and hard work and honesty always reap the rewards.

He considers himself a forever kind of learner and a leader. He regards his staff as his team and works like a family with them. He never shies away from doing any kind of work whenever needed. In his free time, he enjoys good music and good food, especially his all-time favorite Sindhi food.

Jagdish believes that the Sindhi are the most

practical people in the world and their adaptability makes them a cut above the rest as they readily adjust and evolve in any given situation and place.

It is his conviction that the publication, 'the most Iconic Sindhis of the world' will give a big stage to the Sindhi community on a global level. It will showcase the Sindhi's culture, its people and their incredible success stories to the rest of the world.



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# Creating a Legacy with strong vision

KISHAN DEEPAK PALIJA - Chief Executive Officer - Geekay Group

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are a excellent leader." - Dolly Parton.



The quote aforementioned speaks at length about Kishan Palija, the Chief Executive Director of Geekay Group, Dubai, UAE. Originally belonging to the Sindhi family of Thatta, Sindh that migrated to India post partition and eventually settled in the UAE, he started working at an early age of 18 years owing to an early demise of his father and hasn't looked back ever since. His father as a visionary sowed the idea of gaming in the Geekay industry, which Kishan took to another level, did diversification of the business, and expanded it to around six countries in the Middle East. "The only thing that I did was to change Geekay from a gaming shop to a brand", says Kishan with an air of pride and happiness.









Geekay is one of the most reputed names in the gaming industry in the MENA region, operating more than 35 gaming centers across leading shopping malls. Apart from the retail coverage the group is also very successful in being the official distributor to the leading gaming brands of the world. He has also ventured into esports licensing and e-commerce. He has espoused the idea of representing the Middle-East in the related field and under esports some of the best players of the region are playing under their patronage. A huge brand name of one of a kind, Kishan admits,"in all we are 360 degree, a gaming company".

An alumni of Indian High School and Emirates College of Management and Information Technology, Kishan has relentlessly worked hard to successfully create a niche for himself. Kishan is a scion of Palija family that had always been a part of trading business in Dubai since remote times. Kishan calls Dubai as "a welcoming country since forever."

His great grandfather came to Dubai as a trader prior to partition. His family has been doing business in UAE since 1968 and started trading in video games in early 1990s when video game was relatively a new concept in the market . Today Geekay is named as the largest business house in the field of gaming industry.

A man with immense positivity and passion for the work he does, calls himself a lifelong learner and a teacher . He has a forte to keep updating himself with the new technology and coming up with new concepts and innovations in the industry.

He admits that he is blessed with a wonderful team at his workplace and he ensures to provide them a creative freedom that is much required in his industry. He calls himself a leader, "I believe in living by examples, I don't boss around," Kishan says with a sparkle in his eyes, a man with humility in his demeanor and simplified in his approach to life happily gives the credit of his success to his team.

"The only thing that I did was to change Geekay from a gaming shop to a brand"



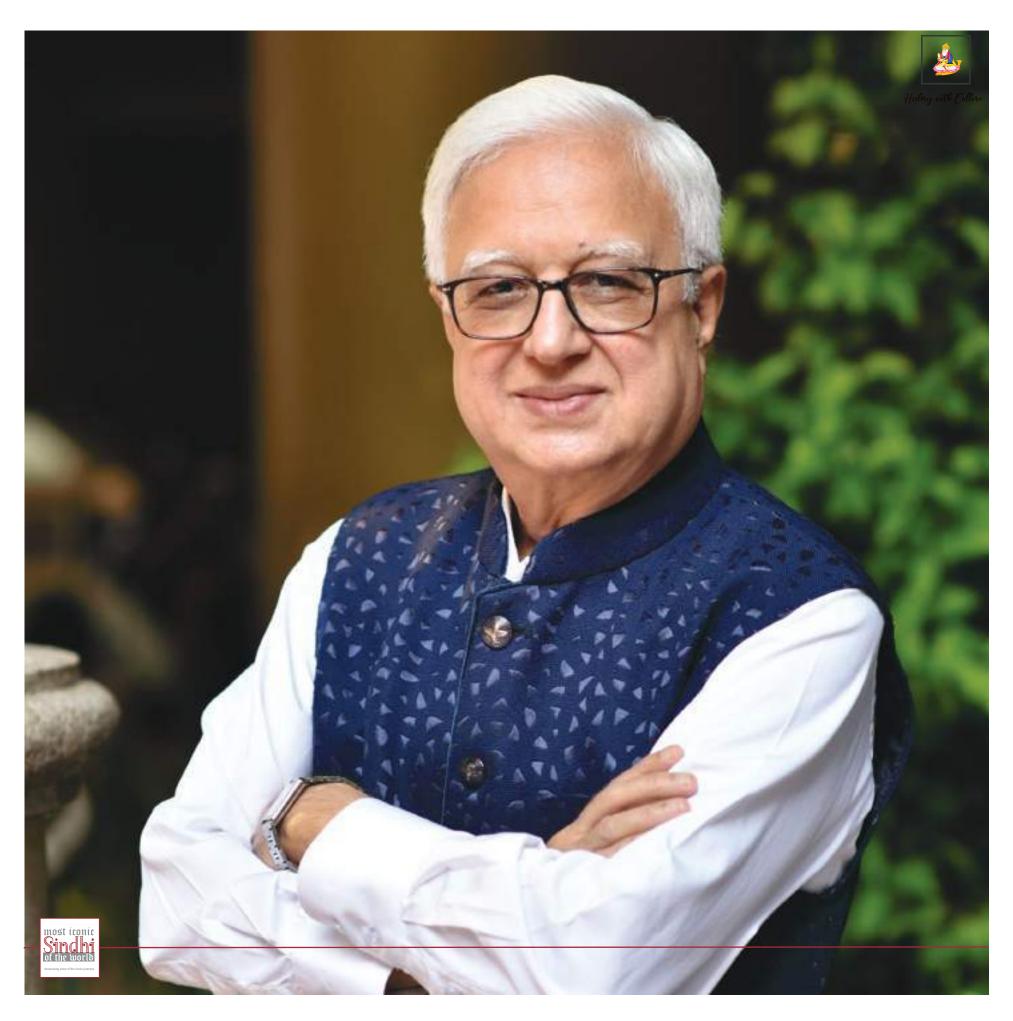
A true Sindhi at heart he loves the history and traditional values and customs of his community.



Kishan calls himself 'a family man', and loves to spend his free time with his wife and three lovely kids. He ensures a regular holiday to some foreign destination with his family that he calls a perfect way to unwind and relax oneself. He also prefers to do cycling and walking by the beach as a part of his routine.

A true Sindhi at heart he loves the history and traditional values and customs of his community. He feels the necessity of preserving and promoting the Sindhi language that is slowly diminishing as compared to the erstwhile hold it had among the sindhi masses.

Kishan has been featured In the book "UAE's Most Iconic NRIs" for his contribution in the gaming industry along with several other accolades and nominations.



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### Truly a Global Citizen

LAL HARDASANI- Founder & Managing Director, Lal's Insurance Brokers Ltd, HK



Lal's biggest passions is to preserve the rich sindhi heritage and promote Sindhi culture.

Sindhis account for a good number of the population in Hong Kong. And just as the way Sindhis are, they have beautifully intermingled with the different nationalities residing in Hong Kong. Apart from running businesses, generating employment and contributing to the economy of Hong Kong, Sindhis have been very active in preserving and promoting their rich cultural heritage, traditions and language in the foreign land. Lal Hardasani and his friends decided to establish Sindhi Association or Sindhi Sajan in Hong Kong in the year 1993 with a vision to safeguard and promote sindhi cultural heritage. Speaking about this Lal Hardasani tells, Like other NRI communities we Sindhis in Hong Kong felt to do something that would preserve our cultural legacy.



11

Our festivals and our deity Lord Jhulelal. Therefore, name of Association was changed to Sindhi Association of Hong Kong and China in year 2001 with a view of promoting sindhi culture. We celebrate Cheti Chand Sindhi New Year with a great pomp and splendor each year. We invite the Sindhi artists from various parts of India on the occasion. We feel that our Sindhi artists are our Cultural ambassadors and it our duty to support them every way possible whenever they need our assistance. The association also publishes a sindhi directory every alternate year. "

A man of strong sense of respect and commitment towards his community, Lal Hardasani whose ancestors belonged to a place called Hyderabad in Sindh province of present day Pakistan, came to India at the time of partition when he was only 7 months old, his family settled in Mumbai. He studied at prestigious educational institutions in Mumbai. He belongs to the family of silver merchants that own three big showrooms at key locations in Mumbai.

As a young, ambitious and strong-willed man he joined the family business and didn't find it interesting enough and decided to go to HongKong with the help of his uncle and try his luck in the land of possibilities. Lal submits, "I started my career in the clothing sector and switched my field to the insurance industry in year 1979. Initially it was not easy but with hard-work and proper networking my business gradually accelerated and today after four decades of successful output we are a big name in the industry and our reputation and honesty are respected by all. "

As a classic Sindhi business leader and a humble human being, Lal Hardasani believes in three P's, Positive thinking, Patience and Perseverance.

His mantra in life is to be honest in all your dealings whether personal, professional or social. He is completely in love with his community and keeps trying his best to give back to the society in all possible ways.



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One of Lal's biggest passions is to preserve the rich sindhi heritage and promote Sindhi culture.

He calls himself both a learner and a teacher, he tells delightfully, "I never close my mind to learning. I still try to learn new trends even from my grandchildren. When it comes to community service, I act like a leader and help and support all. By God's grace I am not a greedy person and feel well- contained. I feel if God has given me so much it is my duty to share my blessings. I try never to deny help to anyone. "

Lal feels Sindhis are global citizens in a true sense. A highly revered and culturally rooted man, Lal spends all his leisure time for the cause of sindhi community. Lal Hardasani has won numerous awards and accolades for his remarkable professional and societal contributions namely International Sindhiyat Award in NRI category for the year 2010 by Akhil Bhartiya Sindhi Boli and Sahitya Sabha, one of the oldest and most respected Sindhi organization in India.

Alongside he holds several key roles and honorary positions at prestigious organizations as Past President of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Current President of The Hindu Association. Trustee of the Indian Institute of Sindhlogy in Adipur (Kutch), which works for the preservation of the Sindhi language and culture and holds one of the largest Library collection of Sindhi Books.





# Living with grace and gratitude

LEENA PARWANI - Entrepreneur & Financial Advisor

"We are the risk takers; we believe in creating a lifestyle."



Leena Parwani moved to Dubai in 2004 when she started her career in the HR department of a prominent Business Group of UAE, and today she stands as the captain of her own ship, she is the founder and CEO of Let's Plan Here Financial Services. A company that she launched in 2014 and serves state of art services in insurance and financial planning.

*My grandfather, father and my mother all have been very passionate and hardworking individuals who believed in creating something substantial. Even my mother ran her own small business from home. Following the example set by the elders of the family, I have become whatever I am today."* 



Her boutique consultancy provides services in family estate planning, liquidity creation for business owners, group health insurance, income protection, life insurance and child education plans for the residents of UAE. As an inspiration to many aspiring Sindhi women business leaders and entrepreneurs, Leena believes that perseverance and consistency made the tide turn in her favor.

An offshoot of a Sindhi migrant family that settled in Rajasthan remembering her childhood, Leena says, "We are Sindhis. I belong to the family of educators. My grandfather, father and my mother all have been very passionate and hardworking individuals who believed in creating something substantial. Even my mother ran her own small business from home. Following the example set by the elders of the family, I have become whatever I am today."

Leena says happily that she perceives the core values of a Sindhi business person, i.e. to be your own boss. "We are the risk takers; we believe in creating a lifestyle. We openly accept that we are gifted in terms of making money and we openly discuss the profit and monetary concerns on the table."

Leena is a woman who has faced tough competition and has created a niche for herself

in the world dominated by men, a challenge little lesser than the previous times but still not over. A Sindhi woman in a competitive market like UAE deserves a lot of applause and respect.

Her success as a business woman, her exemplary lifestyle and her distinguished initiatives have gained her popularity through her accomplishments. No doubt she is one of the emerging women business leaders of the Sindhi world. She is an avid believer that, "Sindhis leave a legacy and I too wish to leave an effective impact and a legacy that can be cherished by the generations."



As a person who comes from one of the most enterprising communities, she wants her people, especially the next generations to build on their own capacity like their ancestors. "Bringing value to every pursuit that one takes up is all that makes a sindhi person.

Present generation doesn't believe in working hard but prefer working smart, which is not bad in a way but our cultural inheritance shows that in order to grow and flourish we must never stop trying for the newer ways, and hard work and diligence have no substitutes." She adds with a deep sense of conviction.

As an individual who believes in living through examples, when not busy with her professional commitments, Leena loves to spend time with her children who make her feel rejuvenated and loved. Leena is very fond of sindhi food and enjoys relishing on it once in a while.

She has a deep respect towards her culture and traditions and tries to interact at home in Sindhi language so that her children get well-versed with it. Leena agrees that, Sindhi community is a perfect example of a great vision, planning and risk taking, they truly accomplish what all they plan to, through determination and self-belief.

Humble, poised, chirpy, intelligent and an extremely passionate person is Leena Parwani to everyone who comes across her.







# A loving servant of Krishna

MAHESH ADVANI - FOunder & CEO of My Govinda's & Textile Merchant

"One who performs his duty without attachment, surrendering the results onto the supreme lord, is unaffected by the sinful action, as the lotus is untouched by the water". - Bhagavad Gita



Krishna, also popularly known as Govinda and Kanha is one of the most venerable deities in India and is worshiped as the 8th incarnation of lord Vishnu. Krishna became the inspiration for many bhakti cults that developed in India from time to time. One such popular movement is ISKCON, International Society for Krishna Consciousness, also called Hare Krishna Mission that promotes and spreads the love for Krishna. Mahesh Advani, a gifted motivational speaker and the member of ISKCON movement is the owner of a popular chain of restaurants that serves sattvic vegetarian food in Dubai named 'My Govinda's'. "Education is like oxygen. It is the only ticket for a better future and I suggest every youth of the nation should purchase one."



He is also the founder and Managing Director of Blossoms Trading, a leader in textile import and distribution in the entire GCC market. Speaking about his early life Mahesh recounts, "I was born in Ajmer in 1964. We belong to the family of Amil Sindhis who migrated from Hyderabad district of Sindh province. Our family was a prominent family in Sindh and we still have a street named 'Advani Gitti' or Advani neighborhood, at the place where once our forefathers flourished.

I reached Dubai in 1982 and started with a humble job. After gaining enough knowledge and experience, I started my textile business in 1988 and My Govinda's was launched in 2001. Love for Krishna and the concept of introducing sattvic food in the market made me start this venture. Today by the grace of God, we have as many as 6 outlets in the UAE. "

A man with a heart of gold and blessings of Krishna, Mahesh strongly believes in the idea of giving back to the society. He is a strong believer that if God has blessed you with opulence then it becomes your moral responsibility to serve the society. A philanthropist par excellence, Mahesh has formed a group named Dubai Textile Merchants Charitable Trust of which he is the President. The group is very active in taking up social welfare activities from time to time, "At the time of Gujarat earthquake in 2001 our trust joined hands with SRC (Sindh Resettlement Corporation) to rehabilitate the earthquake hit Sindhis, we took a piece of land and built 80 houses for them, the locality was christened, Dubai Textile Nagar". Meanwhile we also established Dubai Sindhu Nagar for the slum dwellers of Kutch. We also built parks and community centers. I am also a member of Indian Tribal Care Trust and work to ensure availability of clean drinking water and other infrastructure facilities for the inhabitants of North Eastern India.

As a member of Sundar Sevak Sabha of Ulhasnagar we adopt academically outstanding Sindhi students and sponsor their education for three years. Apart from these I am an active member of many such organizations which address social issues, he adds with a calm and satisfied demeanor. Mahesh feels very satisfied with his active involvement in the social welfare causes.

### "He feels that the Sindhis are the most scientific people and history aptly proves it through the remains of Indus Valley Civilization."

A very generous,kind and devoted man, Mahesh feels that life is an ongoing process of learning and each moment brings a lesson with it. He is also a very popular motivational speaker and has a pretty good number of followers on his YouTube channel. Mahesh feels that the Sindhis are the most scientific people and history aptly proves it through the remains of Indus Valley Civilization.

The excellent city planning and drainage system continues to baffle the world till this

day, he submits proudly. He feels that Sindhis lost their scientific and cultural connection due to the influence of the West but still all is not lost and can be reclaimed. He implores the younger generation of Sindhis to feel proud about their rich cultural heritage.

He prefers to be regarded as a business leader who guides his team with love and affection. In his free time, Mahesh likes to work upon his fitness. He enjoys doing yoga, meditation and chanting every day. He also loves to read religious scriptures like Ramayana and Mahabharata regularly, and derives numerous life lessons and solutions from them.

He is a happily married man and his spouse, Rashmi Advani has been his very loving and supportive partner throughout, together they are blessed with three children.





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# Patience in mind, Dynamism in actions

MONESH RUGHWANI - Managing Director, Experts Group



"We are the guardians of our culture,

values and language and have to pass it on with great care to the next generation. Though Sindhis are excelling but they need to pay attention towards their mother tongue that is losing its luster and is slowly moving towards extinction. "

Monesh Rughwani, a man with a calm, humble and dynamic air about him moved out of India looking for new prospects in life. He landed up in Japan and assisted his brother and uncle in the IT business but due to some personal reasons decided on to shift his work base and landed up in Dubai. Since then it has been 26 years and no looking back. Dubai turned out to be a land of opportunities for this young and fiery Sindhi businessmen and it garlanded him with success and good fortune.

### "There is so much to learn and to create every day in terms of business. I am a Sindhi and I can sell anything"



Originally from Nagpur, India, Monesh acquired his business acumen from his father. But an untimely demise of his father in the year 1987 proved to be a big blow for the entire family, a time when they were climbing the stair of success. This sudden setback forced him and his brother to look for more horizons in life.

Monesh describes himself as a highly self-motivated, committed and a family oriented man. He has always tried to give his best in whichever field he got involved in . A university topper in his Bachelor's of Engineering degree, a man with a go-getter spirit, he decided to do something big in life that would make his family and community proud of his accomplishments. With an uncompromising will power and hard work today, he is running diverse businesses in Dubai that involve. Experts Group having diversified interests in IT, Healthcare, Interior Contracting, E-Commerce, Mall & Property Development.

He is in complete dedication towards his business ventures and tirelessly works to attain the benchmark of success.

He puts it in a beautiful way, "Success is an everyday thing for us. We are expanding in every possible way." In his view, UAE is one of the most business-friendly countries of the world, "there is so much to learn and to create every day in terms of business. I am a Sindhi and I can sell anything", "he chuckles.

Filled with religious uprightness and gratitude, Monesh believes that the generation of Sindhis that he belongs to has a responsibility to leave a legacy that is cherished and celebrated by the future generations. He submits," Sindhis are growing exponentially in every corner of the

values and language and have to pass it on with great care to the next generation. Though Sindhis are excelling but they need to pay attention towards their mother tongue that is losing its luster and is slowly moving towards extinction. Our responsibility is to keep it alive and internalize the fact that it has to be consciously spoken and used as much as possible."

world. We are the guardians of our culture,

He wants to use his life experiences, incidents of success and failure as the guiding light for his son and the younger generation of his community.



'The most iconic Sindhis of the world' initiative will bespeak the success journey and potential of Sindhi people at large and bring forth the best and most inspiring stories that will leave a lasting impact.



Monesh is happily married to Sonia together they are blessed with son, Vishank, who has excelled in his studies, an engineering graduate from the University of Washington. As a wise and an endearing father who wants to pass on the skills of a Sindhi entrepreneurship to his son, he says, "I want my son to eventually join my business but I want him to learn things in life in a hard way. He needs to learn the value of hard earned money. He is presently working at a company named Oracle in San Francisco. I want him to work and gain experience which will help him in the long run."

Monesh considers himself both a leader and a learner. He loves to sit with his team and get things sorted out, plans strategies and never dissuades from offering guidance to those who seek. He tries to have a positive impact wherever he goes. He cherishes the memories with brother Shailendra and sister Kanchan and says, memories are like a treasure house in time and so will be 'the Most Iconic Sindhis of the world' initiative, it will bespeak the success journey and potential of Sindhi people at large and bring forth the best and most inspiring stories that will leave a lasting impact.



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# An embodiment of a true community spirit

MURLI ODHRANI Chairman, Monilek Oilfield



Sindhi Community is one of the oldest communities of the world that prospered in the Sindh province of Pakistan until the infamous partition took place and with a big amount of reluctance they had to leave their loving motherland.

The community stands culturally different from other Hindus as they have their own God Jhulelal and a millennium old language, cuisine, traditions, norms and mysticism. These people who suffered the trauma of partition and became refugees overnight, through their resilience and tenacious spirit have become the billionaires in today's world. People of this business - centric community have taken the world by awe and have set an epitome of legacy, motivation and diligence for everyone. "At present Sindhi community seems largely to be trying to imitate the west and in doing so we are losing our own identity. We need to change our mindset and try to practice our own cultural norms and speak our own language at homes,"



Murli Odhrani a much-respected name in the Sindhi community is the Chief Executive Officer of MONILEK Oilfield Enterprises (formerly known as Petrotech Enterprises) that provides services and product solutions for the major oil and gas production. His son Bharat Odhrani, who is the Managing Director of MONILEK Oilfield is managing the group & expanding the business in the Middle East.

He is the man with a vision to transform lives. He has spent the formative years of his life in India before coming to the UAE 40 years ago. He still keeps going to his hometown in Jaipur, Rajasthan where he owns a Hospital under MONILEK Hospital & Research Centre (in honor of his parents Late Smt. Mohinidevi & Late Shri Lekhraj Odhrani). It is a Charitable hospital run by a family trust since 1986 by an experienced team of Physicians and Surgeons. Also owns a Boutique Hotel under Leisure Inn Grand Chanakya in the heart of the city. He has always considered business not just a means of earning profit but as a medium to help, reform and upgrade the lives of his fellow Sindhis. He tries to promote his community people and others who are in need through his work of social entrepreneurship.

He comes from an extremely humble background and suffered extreme poverty in his formative years of life. He feels blessed that the almighty miraculously rose him to his present position from where he can bring out the best in the people through his mentorship.

He is a man with a golden heart and sees every soul on the same pedestal. Murli Odhrani is always committed to use his struggles, challenges and experiences in life to help people grow and achieve something bigger and better.

He considers himself as a leader who is passionate about bringing positive changes in other people's life, helping them to become the best version of themselves.

He has always identified himself as an incessant learner who loves to share his learnings with all those who reach up to him. Money is not a motivator for Murli Odhrani, for him there are better and bigger things in life that ultimately matter, "At present Sindhi community seems largely to be trying to imitate the west and in doing so we are losing our own identity. We need to change our mindset and try to practice our own cultural norms and speak our own language at homes," he says with concern.

He wants our community to bring-in reforms and create value for their people otherwise certain things from the society might get extinct.





Insurantike Leave Inn Grand Chandras opened on 29th August 2013

A man of passion, compassion and humility, Murli Odhrani is a true embodiment of Sindhi spirit. He believes in selflessly giving to the world what all good he has within himself to offer.

He loves to spend time with his family and is blessed with an extremely supportive and dedicated wife and very loving children and grandchildren. He has great love and respect for his parents and is planning to start a charitable home in their name.

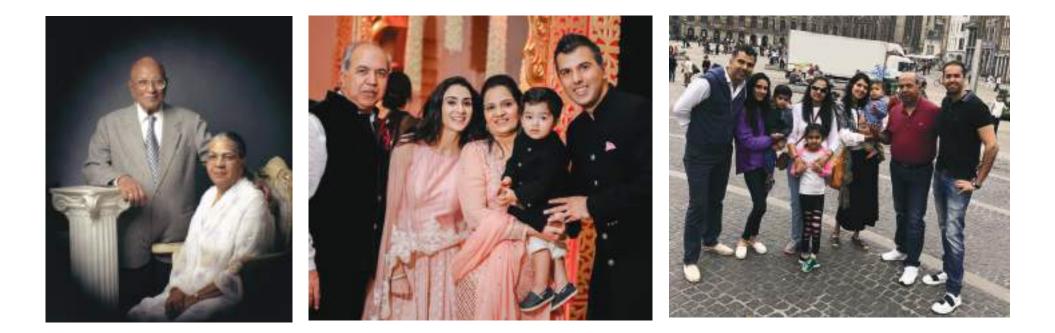
He is a religiously and spiritually inclined man and is associated with prominent spiritual gurus of the community whose blessings he keeps on seeking from time to time; it brings a lot of inner peace to him, he says.

Murli Odhrani's greatest motivation is serving his community and the belief that God has blessed him with so many things and it his duty to help others. This thought inspires him to do more for his community and its people.

He ecstatically shares, "The Sindhi community in India will soon have their own holy city called Shri Jhulelal Tirthdham in Kutch district of Gujarat. The credit for setting up the revered city that would soon become like a Vatican for the Sindhi community goes to the honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. The project will provide Sindhis their own space where they can come together to celebrate and preserve their culture, traditions and heritage, "Along with many other prominent Sindhi personalities, he is actively involved in the realization of this dream project that will benefit Sindhi's around the world.

In this view his community has an immense potential and an attempt like 'The Most Iconic Sindhis of the world' will help in registering the achievements of his community and creating an anthology that will be cherished by the generations for long.

"The sindhi community in India will soon have their own holy city called Shri Jhulelal Tirthdham in Kutch district of Gujarat. The credit for setting up the revered city that would soon become like a Vatican for the Sindhi community"





# Undisputed King of Billiards and Snooker

PANKAJ ARJAN ADVANI - Billiards & Former professional Snooker Player Awardee of Arjuna Award, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri & Khel Ratna



Pankaj has won 25 World Titles in Cue Sports, that comprise 17 in billiards and 8 in snooker,

There are some sports legends who distinguish themselves to an absolutely elevated level and their achievements become a part of sports folklore. Their public image and their achievements provide an opportunity to speak about their remarkable story and inspire the society for many generations. One such name in the history of Indian sports is that of Pankaj Advani, India's highest achieving billiards and snooker player, who has a long list of accomplishments in his bag. He is very popular for his sports prowess in India and in the whole world. Recalling early years of life Pankaj says, "The first five years of my life were spent in Kuwait where my father worked but owing to the infamous Gulf War, my family moved back to India and we eventually settled in Bangalore. Soon my father passed away when I was hardly six years old and the responsibility of raising me and my brother came up on my mother, who raised us single handedly.

During school days my inclination was towards the more conventional sport forms like football, Basketball and cricket, I had no exposure to indoor games.

Once my brother took me to play Billiards with him, I took a trial and it hit perfectly, there was no looking back after that," speaking further he tells, "It was completely incidental that I got introduced to this game. My destiny took me to this direction at a pretty young age. My hobby soon became my profession."

Pankaj has proved his excellence in the game from an early age of ten years and dedicated himself to rigorous hard work and constant practicing. Remembering about his biggest challenges he states, "First time I went abroad in the year 1999 on my own expenses and I still remember vividly that my mother had to break her FD. It is difficult to get support when you're nobody but my mother and brother always encouraged me and believed in my abilities."

Pankaj proved to be a formidable player in both snooker and billiards and brought many laurels to the country for which he had been awarded a number of awards and honors, he received the prestigious Arjuna Award and the biggest award in the field of sports, Khel Ratna Award in the year 2006 at the young age of 20 years. It was a huge moment for me, he adds with a childlike excitement and joy on his face.

So far Pankaj has won 25 World Titles in Cue Sports, that comprise 17 in billiards and 8 in snooker, and for his unparalleled achievements the government of India has bestowed him with honors like Padma Bhushan and Padmashree. A very humble man, he says that I was always surrounded by very positive, helping and uplifting people who encouraged me in reaching great heights. He speaks in complete admiration of his coach, Arvind Savur, a man of wisdom and excellence, who took Pankaj under his wings and tutored him without charging a single rupee. His coach had full faith in Pankaj's capabilities and was assured that one day he will become the world champion.

"I was always surrounded by very positive, helping and uplifting people who encouraged me in reaching great heights"





Pankaj is married to a beautiful Sindhi girl from Mumbai whose name is Saniya Shadadpuri, a makeup artist by profession. In his free time Pankaj tries to unwind himself from all the pressure that his profession brings, he enjoys de-stressing himself by watching television and practicing meditation. Pankaj believes that meditation gives him immense clarity of mind and a high sense of self-confidence and single-mindedness.

Sindhis are exceptionally flexible and adaptable people. They acclimatize themselves to the life and culture of a place they go to and that makes them well suited to any country, culture and lifestyle. Today they are doing business in every nook and corner of the world due to their uncanny ability to mix up well, says Pankaj. In all adulation towards his people Pankaj feels that Sindhis never force their culture on anyone and are very accepting by temperament, therefore, they become good citizens wherever they go.

He is of the belief that the aspects of the Sindhi culture that are unique must be promoted largely for the greater good of the society. Pankaj seems to be extremely delighted to see a Non-Sindhi individual taking interest in promoting the Sindhi community. He is convinced that highlighting the Sindhi achievers of present times and uniqueness of Sindhi culture through the publication 'The most iconic Sindhis of the World', will definitely prove fruitful in the long run.







## Architect of his own Fortune

PARAS SHAHDADPURI - Chairman. Nikai. Group



Sukkhar is the largest city of Sindh province and is located across the river Indus. It has been an important trading route from the remote past. From its cradle emerged several trading communities particularly the Hindu Sindhis who have been an embodiment of the spirit of enterprise and self-reliance. One such person whose ancestral roots belong to the land, which produced a global trading community, is Paras Shahdadpuri, an erstwhile diplomat from Indian Foreign Services and Chairman of the reputed Nikai Group in Dubai, UAE. "I faced multiple challenges through the course of my work but remained undeterred."



He left his highly respectable and prolific career to start his business in the year 1987, a Sindhi at heart he had a hidden desire to be the master of his own self. Shahdadpuri contemplatively sums up, "I got into IFS through UPSC which gave me an opportunity to travel and work in abroad. I served in the foreign services for 16 years before I embarked upon my journey as a businessman. I started from the absolute scratch and created my own brand. God had been very kind and today we have diverse businesses and the deal into electronics, IT, home appliance, retail, food chain and FMCC We have around 6500 - 7000 employees. God had been very kind to me."

Shadadpuri as a true entrepreneur had always been ambitions and believed in turning dreams

into reality through the dint of his single-minded devotion, planning and consistence. His life journey is an example for many who believe in dreaming and are ready to take risks. Paras Shahdadpuri does not believe in waiting for an opportunity rather he believes in creating one. He submits gleefully, "Life had been a very interesting journey for me. Step by step I made sure we don't go beyond our capacity. Every next year should be a year of growth and not regression is my motto when it comes to business. I faced multiple challenges through the course of my work but remained undeterred."

A man of wisdom and mental strength, Paras Shahdadpuri feels that life and fortune favored him at most of the times and he received success, wealth and lifestyle as the byproducts of his hard work and dedication. He tells in a philosophical undertone, not "all is about making money. It is just a by-product of your efforts. Your intentions must be pure because success and satisfaction comes when you have positive outlook towards whatever you pursue in life." He believes in having a positive impact on his community and the world around him.

He never dissuades from lending a helping hand to anyone who comes seeking for his help or mentorship. He has been conferred with numerous awards and honors for his charitable activities; his philanthropy has won him prestigious Bharat Shiromani Award from the government of India.





Shahdadpuri is a doting family man and is in complete admiration for his wife and children who believed in his decisions and stood by his side.

As a classic example of Sindhi invincibility and resilience, he believes Sindhis are a community of resilient, "they are hardworking, business-minded, intelligent, visionary and born leaders".

He says with a sense of pride in his people, "We Sindhis are born traders, we carry our brain wherever we go. After leaving our ancestral home, we started life all over again. Our cultural values are very deeply rooted and we still maintain our legacy.

We have shown the world that even after losing all that we had, we have reclaimed everything that we deserve; the success, wealth and honor. We have a philanthropic side too and wherever we go we add to the value of life of that place. We not only generate employments but help the society through our charitable temperament." Shahdadpuri feels that the publication of this book will unveil the dynamics and achievements of the industrious sons and daughters of Sindhu River, across the world.



## Spreading Kindness and Fragrance

Rajendra Manghanmal Bherunani - Director, Shikka Trading Co. LLC

"A perfume is like a piece of clothing, a message, a way of presenting oneself, a costume that differs according to the woman (person) who wears it."-Paloma Picasso



The world of fashion has many important aspects to it and one of the most empowering and inspiring is that of smelling good which is as big a necessity as looking good. It is regarded as an ultimate fashion accessory by many. Many people use signature perfumes that serve as an extension to their personalities. The people who get into the business of perfume making and selling are considered as very creative, emotive and innovative. One such businessman who deals in supplying and selling perfumes in Dubai, UAE is Rajendra Manghanmal Bherunani, popularly known as Raju in his business circle. He believes that the good scent brings good luck and a sense of identity to the wearer.

Rajendra has a very polite and respectful way of carrying himself and exhibits love, kindness and generosity towards his community in particular and everyone else in general. Talking about his early days he recollects, "I was born in Ajmer, India in the year 1967 to the family of Sindhi migrants. After completing my formal education, I came to Dubai in 1989 and started with a small job.

After gaining much understanding of the UAE market, I started my own perfume business in the year 1993. Starting days were not easy and I had to face several hardships for being new in the field and due to my business strategy of earning low profit, I had to deal with professional rivalries; but God had been kind and I sailed through it and now we are well established and have completed 30 years. "

Rajendra, a very gentle and humble soul, never believes in bossing around and shares an amazing rapport with his staff members. He feels that each new day begins with new possibilities and brings to us new opportunities to learn and improve ourselves.

Rajendra gives a big credit to his beautiful life-partner, Pooja Bherunani who firmly stood by him during his days of struggle and unconditionally supported him and made life easy for him and his family. They are blessed with a lovely daughter named Noopur Bherunani. A complete family man, Rajendra feels a great sense of satisfaction when he spends quality time with his family, it takes away all the day's stress, he says lovingly. He is also fond of Sindhi delicacies made by his wife like Bughal Chawal, Besani Bhaji and Sindhi Kadhi.



Rajendra believes in equipping and empowering the future generation of Sindhis to preserve their cultural legacy.

He says, "There are many renowned personalities from Sindhi community who are working towards safeguarding their rich culture, traditions and language but what we need is to inspire our youth and give the reins of future in their hands so that they understand their responsibility and actively contribute in conserving Sindhi values and legacy."

Rajendra regards his community as the most progressive and adaptable community in the world. We are hardworking people, we do not unnecessarily squander money, and we spend extravagantly whenever needed. we Sindhis always come in forefront and donate, he adds with a sense of pride in his people.

He perceives that the project 'the most iconic Sindhis of the world' will bring forth the spirit of Sindhi society and their talents, achievements and challenges faced by them in the present day world. The book will serve as a historical document for the future generations.

Whenever it comes to do any work of charity,

"There are many renowned personalities from Sindhi community who are working towards safeguarding their rich culture, traditions and language but what we need is to inspire our youth and give the reins of future in their hands so that they understand their responsibility and actively contribute in conserving Sindhi values and legacy."





### I choose to be Kind

SHAILENDRA RUGHWANI - Chairman, Experts Group

"As a young boy, I always dreamt of starting my own business although no one in the family was into business by then. I used to plan, strategize and envision my future as a successful businessman. And today by the grace of god my dream is fulfilled



Chairman of Experts Group, comprising Experts Computers LLC, Epro Middle East, Nirsun Technology, Experts Infra Solutions, Experts Healthcare and Eagle Eye Interior-Dubai, Shailendra Rughwani is a man who was deeply fascinated by the world of business at young age. Shailendra was born in Nagpur. His family stood apart from the other Sindhis because they were all into white collar jobs with the government of India and he is the first generation from his lineage to run a business of his own. "We do not own even our very bodies, what to speak of our wealth. He believes that he is just a custodian who had received wealth from God and now returning to Him what belongs to Him".



Shailendra submits with a tone of nostalgia, "as a young boy, I always dreamt of starting my own business although no one in the family was into business by then. I used to plan, strategize and envision my future as a successful businessman. And today by the grace of god my dream is fulfilled."

An alumnus of Osmania University and Nagpur University, Shailendra has received an honorary Doctoral degree in Business Management. He went to Japan to join his first job at an IT company and it helped him a lot to learn the ins and outs of this field. "I was working and learning. We did business with the top-notch companies of Japan. It helped me a lot for my onward journey;" he says. With a bag full of experiences and quality education by his side, he decided to move out of Japan and start something of his own. Shailendra's decision to set up his own company turned out to be one of his most fruitful decisions. According to him, the UAE is one of the most secure and business-friendly countries.

"When I came to Dubai I saw a gap in the availability of a few products I used to specialize in. We tried to fill the gap and became one of the leading suppliers in the Middle East. We went on to expand our business in other fields apart from IT like Commercial Property development with a focus on malls in Dubai and India, in the healthcare sector by setting up polyclinics and pharmacy, interior designing and contracting," he states proudly.

An astute business leader with an experience of almost three decades, Shailendra loves his work and believes in having a good team for making any company to succeed. Shailendra is very passionate about his field of interest i.e. computers and loves to share his knowledge and is convinced that helping others and enlightening them, brings him immense joy and a sense of fulfilment. Although he remains, busy at his work but he tries to make his family time a memorable one.



He deeply loves his children and makes sure to provide them, their share of care and attention. Shailendra and his wife, Harshal have made sure that Sindhi values are passed on to their children. His son Jatin has completed his Bachelor's & Master's Degree from London and has joined the family business and his daughter Jiya is studying Economics in Tufts University, Boston.

As a promising entrepreneur from the Sindhi community, Shailendra is a classic example of sindhi work ethics and ambition. He is widely recognized as a prolific and influential businessman who has set example as a high achiever for everyone to follow. Very proud and fond of his community and its people he submits, "We sindhis are the only community in India which doesn't have its own state. We adapt to the local culture of any place we are in. We enhance. the business environment wherever we go, we create job opportunities, we add to the GDP. Some of the most prominent business families in UAE and across the world belong to our community."

With utmost humility he goes on and mentions, "the present generation of Sindhis is unaware of the struggles our forefathers went through. Our ancestors had nothing but a survival instinct, for them it was either do or die kind of a situation."

He believes that Sindhis are a group of non-controversial people who have created innumerable business opportunities, they are good at heart; a venture like 'Most Iconic Sindhis of the World' will serve as a mirror of the times we are living and shall bring forth the life and works of this business friendly community. There have been no coffee table books on us, this will be an inspirational piece of literature and will adorn the homes of Sindhis and those who are interested in knowing our achievements and success stories, he feels.





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## When Actions meet Compassion

SURESH KUMAR KHATRI- Vice Chairman Sindhi Academy (Govt. of NCT Delhi)

*He feels that if almighty has blessed him, it is his duty to work for the betterment and upliftment of others who are less fortunate.* 



Sindhi community is known for possessing many gems in the form of persons who from time to time have proved their credibility through their success stories. Suresh Khatri is one such person who has made his community proud by going an extra mile to protect, preserve and develop Sindhi culture and its rich traditions. Suresh Kumar Khatri, currently working as the Vice- President of Delhi Sindhi Academy, an autonomous organization owned by the government of Delhi for the propagation, promotion and development of Sindhi language, literature and culture. "I am 24X7 available for the cause of my community."



Suresh Khatri, a very candid, upright and dedicated man brings with himself an array of Sindhi values.

Khatri was raised with earnestness and integrity by a very religious, honest and successful business family who migrated to India at the time of partition. Khatri believes that his primary aim in life is to work for the society he is a part of.

He feels that if almighty has blessed him, it is his duty to work for the betterment and upliftment of others who are less fortunate. This aim in life is to add value to his community and its people, empower them, educate them and train them in the history, culture and traditions of Sindhi faith. Throughout the course of his life, he has developed social connections and strategies and executed his plans for the upliftment and benefit of the Sindhi society. He is extremely passionate about his purpose in life.

He says, "I worked as a member of RSS (A volunteer organization) and got associated with the family of Sheela Dixit, the former Chief Minister of Delhi, who appointed me to big positions in government run Sindhi organizations.

My journey began ever since and I am trying to promote the Sindhi culture and language. As a Vice-president of Delhi Sindhi Academy I am 24X7 available for the cause of my community."

Deeply passionate about his culture and community, Khatri strives to give all his time to honor the diversity, uniqueness, beauty and various other dimensions of Sindhi culture. His total dedication towards his society is his favorite job and all his me time goes in that.

Other than serving the community he enjoys watching sports as he was himself a national champion in basketball during his student years. He also enjoys Sindhi music as his new musical interest. Khatri has always let his work, dedication and intentions speak for himself. For him Sindhism runs in his blood. He does all his work for the community without any ulterior motives. All his actions are motivated by his pure love and sense of belonging towards his love for Sindhism.

He says with immense love, "The former Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi once said 'Sindhis and Potatoes are found everywhere,' that is true up to a large extent, we Sindhis are very independent people and have a capacity to do anything, anywhere. All we need is to strengthen our cultural identity and for that we are trying to have our own cultural home at the capital city of India, it will be called Sindhu Bhawan or a home of Indus, we are very optimistic about it."

Speaking about the new generation he adds, "As the elders of the community it is our responsibility to ignite the interests of our children in their language and culture. We must use Sindhi language to the maximum at homes as a mode of communication. We have to work in the ways that are understood by the younger generation to attract them towards the culture and language. Seminars, workshops, summer camps, introducing Sindhi rock music and modernization of Sindhi art can play a significant role in the realisation of this dream".

Khatri' is blessed with three children who are doing well in their lives. He believes that the venture like 'The Iconic Sindhis of the world', will be a great platform to salute Sindhi spirit, it will be remembered as a rare kind of effort that will bring a great opportunity to network in the community and register the present day history of the Sindhi world.

"As the elders of the community it is our responsibility to ignite the interests of our children in their language and culture. We must use Sindhi language to the maximum at homes as a mode of communication".







# A Quality music of conscience

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



When is comes to Sindhi values and culture - the are few names who has their own aura, they just believe in supporing community and adding value to society. They always prefer to torch bearer for the next generation. One such name is Vasant Menghani, Simple, but high thinking. Always ready to be support of all causes. He and his brothers , Pradeep and Sunny are known name of IT industry of UAE.





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

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

He realized he had reached an unparalleled boundary of success when he started to enjoy the patronage of clients such as Carrefour, Lulu, Emax, Landmark, Jackys, Sharaf DG, Axiom, Home Center, Emirates Airlines, Air Arabia, ENG and Partners Like MICROSOFT, Intel, Epson, APC, Licensee partners of Warner Bros, Hasbro, Disney, Universal, Marvel, Rovio. He doesn't believe in spearheading a company with an iron-clad fist. On the contrary, he is one of those men who are the paragon of humbleness in the victory. In his own words, "I am neither a leader nor a boss, I am but a motivator & initiator". Vasant was bachelor student of science and want to be a Doctor but journey of nearly a decade required to become a surgeon. Vasant do not want to keep his Mother away from his family in Dubai, so he decided to go quick for 2 years Computer courses rather long 11 years medical study. With in-depth IT knowledge to try his luck, he started his 1st IT Company with name of "Quality Computers" in Dubai in 1989. It was the beginning of a new chapter in Vasant's life. After that, there was no looking back. "Singing is his passion", with many qualities of business & leadership, It may come as a surprise, but Vasant is an excellent singer as well, who has sung in Bollywood with melody queen of India "Alka Yagnik" and soon will record song with legend singer "Asha Bhosle". He planned to launch his 1st songs album in 2020 with most famous bollywood TOP singers. Currently his Bollywood name is "VasantDubai" and website of his songs is **www.vasantdubai.com** 



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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









B.K. GURBANI, Chairman, Gurbani Group



There are some people in the world who start their career with absolutely nothing to call their own but are destined to reach the greatest milestones that come their way. Brahma Kishanchand Gurbani is one such risk-taker who started from very little and reached a height of success that very few can dream about. Throughout his success story, one thing that worked for him was his knack to anticipate success from far away, exploiting the opportunity every time it knocked his door.

### "I always believe in value of time and discipline"

Hailing from Sindh, his family moved to India post partition and like all other refugee Sindhis leaving all the assets behind, they had nothing but the spirit of resilience, high degree of perseverance and entrepreneurial skill to survive in the new world marked with new challenges.

Chairperson and Managing Director of M/s. Sampre Nutrition Limited and Gurbani Group Brahma Kishanchand Gurbani has three state of art manufacturing units in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. A big name in confectionery business, the group has been successfully serving several multinational clients like Proctor and Gamble Ltd, Kraft Foods Ltd (earlier known as Cadburys), Dabur Ltd, Perfetti Van Melle Ltd, Nestle to name some.

A well-known name in manufacturing cough drops and lozenges, the group is accredited to be

Asia Pacific Region's best plant conducted by Mondelez (Kraft Foods) in the international audit.

The manufacturing plant set up by BK Gurbani almost 30 years ago with extreme labor and fortitude, today stands proudly in a 4 acre plot with lush green surroundings. The machinery in the plant is directly imported from Germany and is in automatic line. Today the company is engaged in manufacturing eclairs, candies, toffees, center filled products and more. The group is a one-stop shop for a complete range of confectionery production.

BK Gurbani is a self-made man, after losing his father at a tender age and being the eldest son of the family he learnt the lessons of life very soon as he had the responsibility of taking care of his younger siblings along with his mother. In his initial career he did supervisory roles at a biscuit manufacturing company but due to weak financial conditions, he decided to start a side business of confectionery production by manufacturing lollipops by hand operated machine along with his family members, a machine that is proudly displayed in his office chamber even today.

With his broad vision, aim of delivering quality products and uncompromising attitude when it came to consumer satisfaction he built a team. He managed to get the ball rolling and it never stopped ever since. Recently the group has signed Memorandum of Understanding with the African Peace and Security Union and the company is soon setting up a manufacturing plant of a complete range of fortified vitamin candies for the African countries



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Sindhis are very hardworking and on their toes round the clock when it comes to business".



Beside of lot of awards and accreditations the company has received "INTERNATIONAL QUALITY AWARD" in New York in 2012. BK Gurbani's life is marked with humility and simplicity. He never acts like a billionaire. The key take away from him for everyone is that if we follow simple and uncomplicated plans with utmost sincerity and diligence for a long time it will surely reap the harvest.

He is blessed with three amazing daughters who have inherited entrepreneurial skills from him and are successful in their respective fields. His wife had been his strongest pillar throughout his journey, her unwavering support and handling all the household responsibilities kept him afloat on the busy days that his work life demanded. When asked about his favorite pastime he tells, fondly remembering his mother, "she had shown the path of success to us when she single-handedly took to raising me and my siblings."

He was deeply attached to his mother and spent his spare time in her company. He loved to sit and talk with her endlessly. Her footmarks are inscribed on his office chair as a sign of her blessings. BK Gurbani is also an accomplished harmonium player and enjoys playing it in his free time.

BK Gurbani believes that Sindhi community belongs to the whole world. Through their trade, investment and mingling temperament they make any place their home. In his words "they are very hardworking and on their toes round the clock when it comes to business".

A community that lost everything at the time of partition has sons and daughters like BK Gurbani who have persevered and worked hard to regain the status they always deserved.



### A Momentous Journey

CHANDER BHATIA- A Veteran of Dubai Airport & Textile Merchant

"Back then there was no power supply or drinking water. Water was carried from far away on donkeys and it contained oil. We used to boil and strain the water to make it fit for drinking."



When it comes to longtime expats settled in the UAE many people can easily lay their claims but Sindhi community definitely holds the credit of having been one of the earliest settlers in the UAE. Chander Bhatia has had an illustrious stay in Dubai for the past five decades and has been a part of the generation that shaped the country from its teething years by playing an important role in its transformation. A Sindhi born in the undivided Pakistan in the year 1942, he migrated with his family to Ajmer, Rajasthan post partition when he was a five year old child. His family was a rich agriculturalist family of Sindh who owned several agro-based industries but had to forsake everything that belonged to them and migrate in order to secure their lives. After spending a few years in Ajmer he moved to Dubai in 1962. He embraced a future in Dubai from which there was no looking back.

Recalling his early days in Dubai he says, "back then there was no power supply or drinking water. Water was carried from far away on donkeys and it contained oil. We used to boil and strain the water to make it fit for drinking. " He further adds," there were very few Sindhis in Dubai at that time, maybe less than a thousand, this way everyone knew everybody.

There was a lot of love and concern for each other. The local population of Dubai was very supportive and had a lot of respect for the Indians."

With a keen interest in the field of aviation he secured a job at Dubai airport. He literally opened and closed the airport. The airport keys remained with him, in a tone of nostalgia and pride he puts it, "the ruler of Dubai used to oversee the operation and development of the airport and interacted with all of us at a personal level. There were very few flights and much smaller aircrafts back then in time. I worked at the airport for almost forty years and played a key role in starting and maintaining the services like Marhaba, security check, passenger service department, training department, baggage and trolley service etc. The government officiated whatever I did and it motivated me further. " "He literally opened and closed the airport. The airport keys remained with him, in a tone of nostalgia and pride he puts it" Chander Bhatia sees Sindhi community as a very enterprising and hardworking group that significantly contributes to the economy of the country wherever it stays. He puts it in affirmative, "worldover sindhis have established themselves in a good name". He sees Sindhi community's contribution in the development of business and business awareness in the UAE to a great extent. Sindhis have maintained a good rapport in the market and run big businesses in Dubai, says he.

Chander Bhatia lost his father at the age of 16

and being the eldest son of the family worked very hard to ensure a secure and comfortable life for his mother and siblings. Apart from his job at the airport he also owned a textile business in Dubai with his brothers. He calls himself a combination of a learner and a teacher. He worked as a teacher at the airport training center and says that each day of life offers him some new wisdom of living.

He has three sons and all of them are very well settled in their lives. His wife departed for the heavenly abode in the year 2009 and today he sees his sons, his grandchildren and his younger brothers and sisters very well settled in their lives as a happy and satisfied man. In his free time he enjoys listening to sufi music and poetry. He is very fond of Sindhi language and feels very sorry for it getting slowly diminished with the changing times.

A man with a spiritual bent of mind, he is associated with the Radha Swamy Satsang Center in Dubai, UAE and actively participates in its promotion.









## Serving Humanity in best manner

Dr. Nanak Wadhwani- General Physician & Covid Hero

*"Fear, hysteria and panic surrounded everyone at Covid time but my job was to bring in kindness, empathy and love,"* 



In the year 2020, the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus outbreak to be a global pandemic. It caused a havoc on the lives of the people across the world and the second wave was especially fateful for the people of India. During those nerve-wrecking times, the doctors and the medical staff who were the frontline workers and often referred to as Covid Warriors provided hope and help to the diseased and vulnerable. On one hand, people across the country were confined to their homes owing to the lockdown but on the other hand, doctors and the health care staff were battling against all odds, putting their lives at stake with a spirit of selfless humanity.



'Iconic Sindhis of the World' is a way of bringing to the world an access to Sindhi Culture and the lives of Sindhi change- makers and experts of the present times who will enlighten the readers through their experiences,

These brave hearts who were highly under-resourced faced unprecedented challenges each day. The medical fraternity worked hard risking their own lives and sometimes sacrificing their own for the safety and preservation of humanity at the difficult hour in the human history.

One such name in the list is of Dr. Nanak Wadhwani who stood bravely and selflessly for the cause of his duty, risking his own personal safety, cutting himself off from his family and loved ones. His services during those heart-breaking times will be long remembered in the capital city of Delhi, India. Dr. Wadhwani is a top general physician at a renowned nursing home in North Delhi. As a physician, he took an oath to help the sick and suffering, and when the infamous pandemic broke out, he proved that what he did was more than a profession or a passion; it was a calling to put one's own self at risk to save another human life. "Fear, hysteria and panic surrounded everyone at that time but my job was to bring in kindness, empathy and love," says the doctor and adding further he submits, "those were incredible times, it brought opportunities and challenges to learn to serve our fellow human beings with an unshakable hope and faith." The brave and fearless doctor comes from a family of Sindhi migrants who came and settled in India before the partition took place. Dr. Wadhwani' s father did a course in Pharmacy and took a job with India Railways.

Dr. Wadhwani puts in with a tone of nostalgia, "We were four siblings. My father had a transferrable job and therefore, we changed cities very often and studied at some of the best educational institutions run by the Indian railways. Subsequently my brother helped me to get admission at the legendary Aligarh Muslim University where I studied medicine."



Punctuality, honesty and hard work are the virtues that represent Dr. Nanak which were instilled into him and his siblings by their father. All his siblings and their children are excelling in their respective fields because of their uncompromising attitude when it comes to the moral principles.

Dr. Wadhwani is happily married to his wife Chandralekha and is blessed with two children, one son and one daughter who are both well- settled. In his free time, Dr. Wadhwani loves listening to old Bollywood songs. He loves travelling and enjoys eating non-vegetarian food. As a champion of serving humanity, Dr. Wadhwani calls himself an eternal learner. According to him, learning is a life-long journey, which is found in each and every human contact that we make; he never misses a chance of learning and evolving from any form of interaction he undergoes. As a passionate humanitarian, he leaves no chance to serve people and influence their lives in a positive manner.

A doctor of high repute and an important figure in the Sindhi community he views the endeavors like 'The most Iconic Sindhis of the World' as a chance of bringing to the world an access to Sindhi Culture and the lives of Sindhi change- makers and experts of the present times who will enlighten the readers through their experiences, life-lessons and knowledge to address the needs and problems of the Sindhi Community, their illustrious achievements and also their ideas to shape and design their collective future.





## Healthy Reputation of values

### DR. RAJESH RAIPANCHOLIA - Interventional Cardiologist



*"Medicine only defines me as a person. It is my sole passion. Work is paramount for me and I am completely absorbed into it."* 

Thattai Bhatia community of Sindhis traces its roots to the Rajput's of Jaisalmer. As a community they were engaged in trade with the gulf since remote antiquity. They were looked up as honest and upright people. The people from this community are well established in United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. There are many renowned personalities in Dubai from this community and one such name is Dr. Rajesh Raipancholia, a Cardiologist of very high repute.

Dr. Rajesh Raipancholia serves at HeartFirst Medical Centre, a first of its kind cardiology clinic in Dubai Healthcare City that provides world class comprehensive cardiology care with state of art facilities.



An alumnus of Indian High School Dubai as his family had settled long back in the UAE, Dr. Raipancholia rewinds, "I went to study medicine in Mumbai and London, specialized in invasive cardiology and came back to Dubai. If I remember my early days in Dubai then I can say with a lot of conviction that there was much more sense of community as there was no internet or social media, people were more communicative and every one knew every one."

Dr. Rajesh Raipancholia serves at HeartFirst Medical Centre, a first of its kind cardiology clinic in Dubai Healthcare City that provides world class comprehensive cardiology care with state of art facilities. Born in a Sindhi business family, Dr. Raipancholia was a talented child as very few from the community went into the medical field during those times. With a very good quality education in Mumbai, an advanced training in London and now with decades of experience Dr. Raipancholia finds immense joy, pleasure and satisfaction in serving his patients.

As a very passionate and hardworking doctor, he is hugely respected and recognized in the medical society. He puts it beautifully, "Medicine defines me as a person. It is my sole passion. Work is paramount for me and I am completely absorbed into it."

A strong dedication and focus towards his work makes him a doctor of high moral principles who believes in doing his best to make his patients comfortable and relaxed.

He earnestly hopes to make a difference in the world of medicine in his own little ways. Dr. Raipancholia has a kind heart and dedicated spirit. He greatly values the blessings and guidance of his parents. He is blessed with a very supportive wife and a loving family. "My wife has been the anchor of our family. My professional commitments kept me occupied for the major part of my life and she took the responsibilities of the children and house. She holds us all together," he confides endearingly. Both his children studied Economics from London and are doing well professionally. He feels very proud and fortunate to have them as a part of his life.

Dr. Rajesh believes that through hard work,

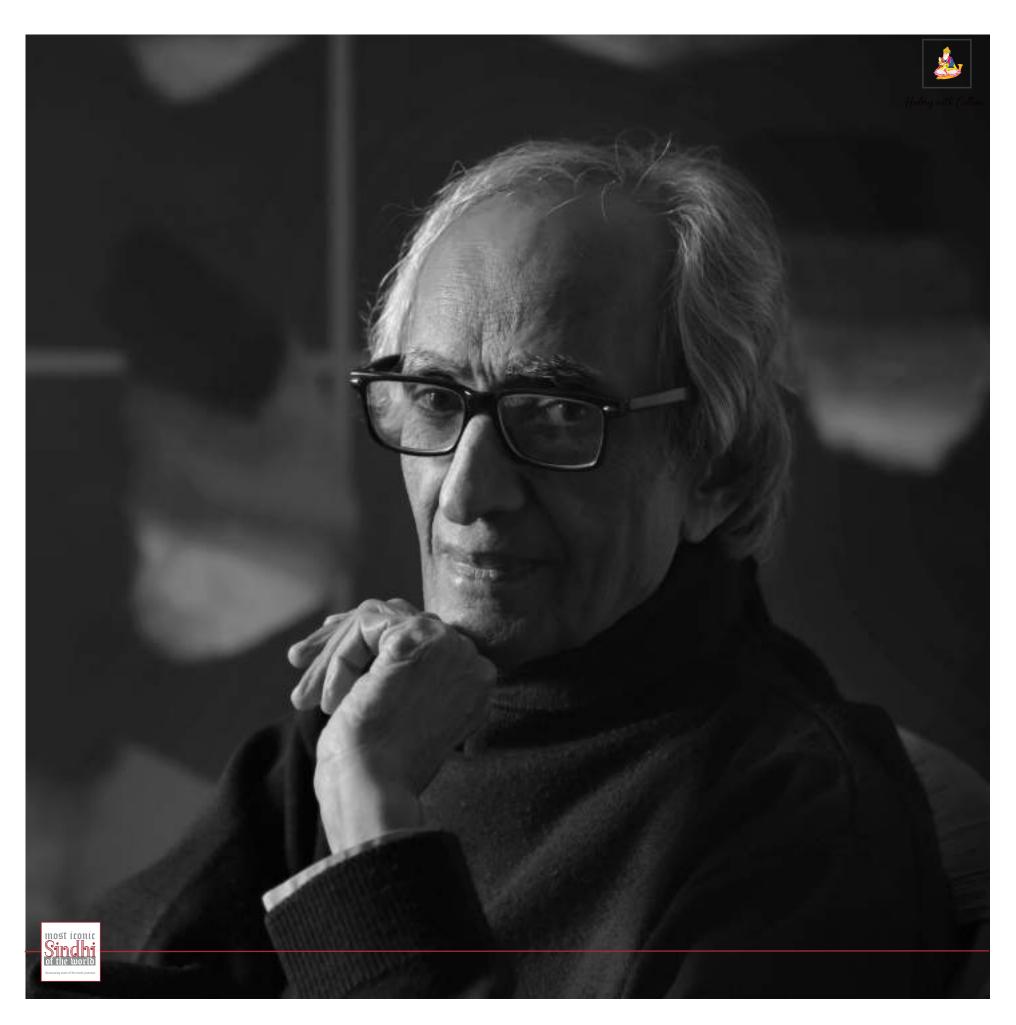
"My wife has been the anchor of our family. My professional commitments kept me occupied for the major part of my life and she took the responsibilities of the children and house. She holds us all together," perseverance and faith in God, one can achieve anything. He views Sindhi community as a hardworking and successful community but feels that the community needs to produce more professionals. He believes that Sindhis have proved their excellence in the field of trading and business but an all round-development and continual evolution in every aspect is needed in any healthy and well-functioning community.

Dr. Raipancholia is confident regarding the efforts of Sindhis in India, Gulf and globally for their unfaltering commitment to preserve their cultural values and economic and progress. Although he spent a major part of life being busy with his work but still being in a profession where he got a chance to serve people provides a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction to him whenever he looks back to his life in retrospection. Dr. Raipancholia loves cricket, once he played it and now he enjoys watching it.

He is fond of travelling and loves to explore and experience new destinations. He makes sure to go on a vacation with his family, once a year.



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## Classic Strokes of Life Journey

GOPI GAJWANI - Prominent Artist and Photographer



Art in every form has a very rich and complex history from the remote past. It has been a means of one's self-expression and creative imagination along with presenting the idea about time and space in which it was created. Apart from other art forms, painting has always been the most important, popular and relatable.

"As a young boy I used to copy the images and present them as it is and it paved the way for my future"



Gopi Gajwani is one of the stalwarts of Modern Indian Painting. Born in the year 1938 in the Sindh province of erstwhile undivided India, his family migrated to Fatehpuri, Delhi at the time of partition.

He graduated in Graphic Designing from the Delhi School of Arts in the year 1959. He is mainly an abstract painter, a graphic designer, a photographer, a filmmaker and a cartoonist. Remembering his childhood days he tells with a tone of nostalgia, "I was very poor at studies, unlike my other siblings who were bright students at school. I felt repulsed at the thought of going to school.

Only drawing and painting classes motivated me and I loved attending them. "Gopi further says that the profession of a painter during those times was not a very lucrative one and in order to support himself financially he did several ad hoc assignments like creating posters for the movies before he joined as a Designer at the American Center where he worked for nearly 29 years.



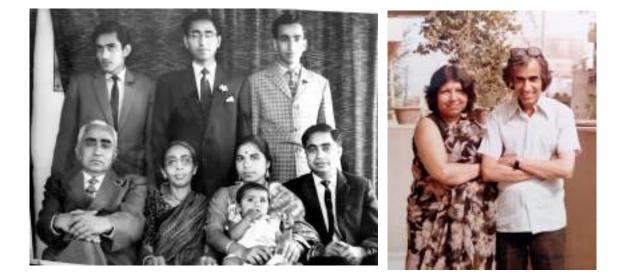


Through his paintings Gopi tries to explore the abstract, he submits with an air of confidence that he had always given a lot of importance to humor in his life and it took him to making cartoons and caricatures. "As a young boy I used to copy the images and present them as it is and it paved the way for my future", says he. His cartoons, caricatures and illustrations appeared in several leading newspapers, weeklys and magazines of the time, Span and the Illustrator to be named in particular.

With an illustrious career that spans to almost six decades, Gopi has staged over 100 group shows and 25 Solo performances in major cities of India and abroad. He has also conceived and photographed around 8 short films and proudly submits, "My films are an expression of my thoughts and experiences in life ". He has designed several coffee table books too. An extremely humble and soft-spoken man, Gopi enjoys everything that is pertaining to art in his life, " Anything that is related to art is at once my weakness and my strength, it naturally becomes my hobby", says he. Other than painting he also enjoys watching classic movies of the world and listening to good music.

As a perfect family man he feels very fortunate to have a life partner in the form of his wife who supported, encouraged and empowered him mentally to follow his artistic pursuits. He gives the credit of his excellent creative output to her.

He is blessed with two sons and one daughter who are all walking on their father's footsteps and are fulfilling their respective creative interests. Gopi perceives Sindhis community as a group of very hardworking and industrious people but somehow finds that there's a dearth of illustrious people in the field of art and aesthetics. He wishes to see more talented Sindhis coming in the creative field and proving their excellence.







## **Treasure** your Values

#### HARISH BOJWANI - Director- Lals Group

"We Sindhis are visionaries, we are not afraid of taking risks in life. Through our smart business tactics and clear vision, we make right business moves. Almost all major chains of supermarkets in the UAE today belong to Sindhis,"



Prior to the partition Sindhis lived and thrived in the Undivided India's Sindh province. Traditionally Sindhis had occupied the key roles in trade, commerce and finances in the region and lived a peaceful life. Sindhi merchants were involved in lucrative businesses and were a wealthy community back then, says Harish Bhojwani, the Director at the renowned Lal's Group of Companies. "We all know what our values are; we just have to instrument those as well."

Harish Bhojwani, known for his great business sense and expertise belongs to Jodhpur, the blue city of India who came to Dubai decades ago and initially worked as a shelf boy at Choithrams, one of the premium brands in the food business. As the time passed, through his hard work, dedication and skillfulness.

Harish earned a great reputation and his business acumen was well appreciated by his peers and employers and when Mr. Lal diversified and separated his business from the Choithrams, he appointed Harish to a key post in his business venture.

He feels that Sindhis played a decisive role in building the infrastructure of UAE. "We Sindhis are visionaries, we are not afraid of taking risks in life. Through our smart business tactics and clear vision, we make right business moves. Almost all major chains of supermarkets in the UAE today belong to Sindhis," he adds. He feels that the Sindhi community has contributed a lot in the growth and development of the UAE and the government of UAE has been very supportive towards this business community.

Harish calls himself an amalgamation of both a learner and a teacher; nothing brings him more excitement than learning something new each day. He never shuns away from sharing his knowledge with those who come to seek his guidance and help.

Harish feels Dubai is a fantastic place to work and learn about the various new developments in the world of business and otherwise.

Harish feels all his free time is dedicated to his work as he has realized that his work is his calling and it gives him a sense of joy and satisfaction. If he finds any time then he enjoys meeting his friends over a drink or two and being a family oriented person he rejoices in spending time with his family. His wife cooks amazing food for the family and they relish on rich Sindhi food quite often.

Harish feels today that the people community are spread all over the world and this unique book 'The Most Iconic Sindhis of the World' will help them in knowing each other and bringing unity and glory to the our Community. He feels that the Sindhi community will always be on the rise if the people especially the Gen next will not take anything for granted and respect and preserve its language and rich cultural heritage.





## She believed she could, so she did!

JAISHRI JETHWANEY - Mass Comm. & Journalism, Professor

"If you believe you can"



"If you believe you can", is the motto by which Jaishri Jethwaney lives. From starting her career in Communication, to shifting to teaching Mass Communication and Journalism as a Professor, followed by a full-time research in the concerned field to currently holding a position of Senior Advisor to the Government of India in Communication, is her story, which is an inspiration to many, especially for those who believe in hard work and fortitude. A Ph.D. from the Jawaharlal University in Media and Elections, Jaishri has authored several books which are textbooks in many universities and best sellers. She has consulted with many national and UN organization like WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO on areas of development, communication, and research.

She is a visiting faculty and on the board of studies of several universities and institutions of higher learning.

### *"If you have the courage to swim against the tide, you soon understand the undercurrents and you swim through, conquering all odds."*



Jaishri, fondly calls herself 'LLL' i.e. Life Long Learner. She is an ardent believer in the fact that there is no alternative to hard work and learning as it always reaps its results. As a faculty in Media, she never gets tired of coming up with new ideas to expand the horizon of learning for her students, she loves to interact and gather insights from students, friends and professionals. Jaishri never deters from her aim of learning and sharing her knowledge and has been an author herself, she has got many books published in her name.

Her family migrated to India at the time of partition from a place called Dadu, in the Sindh province of Pakistan. Her forefathers had a close association and inclination towards education, therefore, a lot of weightage was given to providing quality education to the kids of the family. Her father worked as a Civil Engineer and walking on his footsteps, Jaishri and her sisters excelled in their respective fields of interest. "You need to have a great belief in yourself. I believed in my capabilities, believing that there is nothing unsurmountable, and of course everything becomes easy when others believe in you; "she exclaims with utmost humility and calls this as the motivating factor by her life.

When asked about what she likes to do in her free time Jaishri gives a surprised look and submits, " I consider all my time as ME time." with her urge to learn and reach out to people she regards her work as her source of perennial joy and happiness, she hardly gets any free time but still if she finds one she enjoys travelling and loves spending time with family and friends over good food and great ambience, she beams as she says.

Being an optimistic, goal oriented and determined person, she never gets bogged down by the challenges in life whether personal or professional. In her words, "If you have the courage to swim against the tide, you soon understand the undercurrents and you swim through, conquering all odds." "Sindhi who left their homes and heaths and virtually brought nothing helped India in reeling its economy and are today spread all over the globe, contributing to the respective economies."

Jaishri chose to stay single and has always let her work, knowledge and intentions speak for herself. She considers all her students as her family whom she has taught over a course of quarter decade.

As a true Sindhi at mind and heart she wants the people of her community to leave an imprint of Sindhi uniqueness and diligence. She sees Sindhi Community as a major contributor to the various areas of economy. In her words, "People who left their homes and heaths and virtually brought nothing helped India in reeling its economy and are today spread all over the globe, contributing to the respective economies." She wants the Sindhi youth to keep recalling their difficult past and realizing the sacrifices made by their ancestors to build a solid ground for them.

She wants in all affirmation that the coming generations understand their responsibility and start creating value for their people, culture, and language.



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## Upholding Sindhi Values

M. Sudhamo Lal, the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA)



"When the Sindhi Hindus migrated, you can say the entire educated, intellectual class migrated. In a way it affected the rights of the Muslim population also"

M. Sudhamo Lal, the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) was born in 1945 in Khaayi village, district Sukkur, which has now been merged with Shikarpur district. By the time he grew up, Pakistan was already a reality and many Sindhis from his village had migrated to India and the few who stayed back did so due to one compulsion or the other. On growing up he observed that at school as well as in the town, the basic Sindhi-Hindu culture still prevailed.



Remembering the time of Sindhi exodus at the time of partition he puts, "I was too young at the time of the mass migration of Hindus during partition. My forefathers had land as well as businesses. Our core family still resides in Sindh although they have now moved to big cities like Karachi. We are basically Mandhwanis-Mandhwani Khattars. Infact Sindhi Hindus, even prior to partition, were basically traders, professionals, lawyers, doctors, engineers, teachers and a few were even landlords. When the Sindhi Hindus migrated, you can say the entire educated, intellectual class migrated. In a way it affected the rights of the Muslim population also"

Sudhamo Lal studied at Sukkur and Hyderabad, Sindh province. He completed his graduation from Tande Jam Agricultural College in Hyderabad and post graduation from the Sindh University. Then he cleared the CSS examination which is equivalent to IAS examination in India. He was the first Sindhi-Hindu to clear that examination. Thereafter, he was selected in the Income Tax group. He was appointed as the Assistant Commissioner initially and then became the Deputy Commissioner, then the Director General and then the Member, Central Board of Revenue, Islamabad.

He was the Member for the Tax Policy which also oversees customs. He was also the Chief of Direct Taxes. In Pakistan, he had served as Commissioner in Karachi and Lahore, then in Islamabad and when he became the Chief Commissioner, Director General and Member he went to Mauritius in the year 2005.

Sudhamo is in complete admiration towards his culture and tells that now very few people wear the dhoti and kurta. My father who expired in 1984, always wore dhoti but nowadays salwar-kameez is more common, he adds.

Sudhamo loves Sindhi literature and says, "There are very few Sindhi writers. Firstly the readership of the Sindhi newspapers and magazines is quite low. The Sindhis who stay in the cities speak Urdu and English. About a decade Urdu was quite popular, but now-a-days everyone speaks in English. After the demise of the first generation Hindu Sindhi litterateurs, the next generation of litterateurs isn't as illustrious as the first generation. You must have visited the website of 'Kawish' newspapers, where some Hindu Sindhis write articles for it. Even I read that newspaper daily on the internet.

Sudhamo's name is included in the Sindh Hall of Merit at https://www.facebook.com/Sindh.Hall.of.Merit. His achievement was also recognized by the Pakistan Young Hindu Forum who has created an Excellence Education Award in his name to be given to deserving students on the eve of Diwali.

Now, Sudhamo is settled in Mauritius as the Director General and the Chief Executive of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA). As the first employee and CEO of the MRA, Sudhamo has led a massive transformation and digitalization of both the tax and customs administrations. Today, the MRA is a model for public sector administrations in Mauritius and in the African continent and receives several foreign delegations on study tours every month.



The strong, dedicated and business-centric community will has limitless possibilities and it's tenacious sons and daughters will always uphold their guiding principles

Under his leadership, Mauritius ranked 5th in the World in the last World Bank Ease of Paying Taxes Index.

Sudhamo has been appointed to several important positions internationally as a tax and customs administrator including as President of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA), Vice-Chairman of the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) and Vice-Chairperson of the World Customs Administration's Eastern and Southern African region. A recent press article in Mauritius referred to "Sudhamo Lal as born in Pakistan and nowadays a Mauritian citizen at 1000%. The Mauritian nation is grateful to him for having transformed tax administration in Mauritius from the era of the sailing boat of the famous pirate Robert Surcouf to that of the modern world". It is in recognition of his contribution in the tax administration field in Mauritius that the Government in 2018 conferred him the award of the Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (CSK).

His decades of tax administration experience is in

great demand and Sudhamo is often called as main speaker in international fora to share his views on some of the new challenges and trends in tax administration. This has provided him with an opportunity to further develop his circle of friends from revenue administrations and further fill his cultural dictionary with diversity.

Sudhamo tells that there may be approximately 250 Sindhis, that is about 40 to 50 families settled in Mauritius. All the Sindhis are engaged in businesses like trading, textiles, household goods.

He has many relatives in India and visited India in 2004 as a keynote speaker, representing Pakistan at the World Bank Seminar held in Delhi. My sister, nieces and nephews stay in India. My wife's almost entire family is in India. My wife goes every year to India and even from Pakistan she used to visit every year, he says. Sudhamo, a man of great disposition and philosophy in life considers Sindhi cultural legacy, religious beliefs, ethnicity and the spirit of oneness as the unique features that identifies them wherever they are positioned in the world. Despite the passage of so many decades they have endeared and meticulously preserved all that their illustrious forefathers handed down to them and will remain committed to uphold their rich customs and traditions.

The strong, dedicated and business-centric community will has limitless possibilities and it's tenacious sons and daughters will always uphold their guiding principles, he believes.



An extract from Dr Ram Jawhrani's book – Global Sindhis Part II



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### Always. Values and Ethics First

MOHANDAS GURNANI - Executive Chairman, Veto Switchgears & Cables



"We Sindhis are a united group of people. We believe in helping and building each one of us."

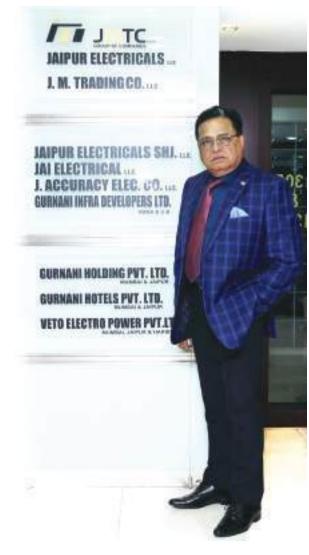
Indians residing overseas, popularly known as the Non Resident Indians are a group of people who stay and work outside the territory of India. Sindhis who migrated to India at the dawn of Indian independence became refugees within their own country and gradually settled in different states of India. Some of them moved to different parts of the world and carried their culture and heritage along. A large-scale migration and alienation from their motherland did not deter the brave heart Sindhis from safeguarding their culture, cuisine and language.



Mohandas Gurnani belongs to the beautiful city of Jaipur, India where he was born and raised. Through his uncanny spirit and hard work today his company is counted among the top electrical companies in India and UAE. Gurnani believes that the Sindhi community has played a key role in the economic development of the place wherever they stayed. He puts it perfectly, "We Sindhis do not take anything for granted. We got refugee status within our own country but we did not give up. We had an unwavering faith and a spirit of innovation; we fought all odds and today stand with irrevocable dignity. We have created businesses, have achieved academic excellence and made society a better place through our charitable instincts. A true epitome of Sindhi fortitude and wisdom, Gurnani adds, "We Sindhis are a united group of people. We believe in helping and building each one of us."

We decided to leave our motherland and took refugee status but did not compromise on our faith. We stand unitedly for our principles and make immeasurable contributions when it comes to community betterment. The Gurnani family organizes community weddings for the underprivileged Sindhi boys and girls. We have

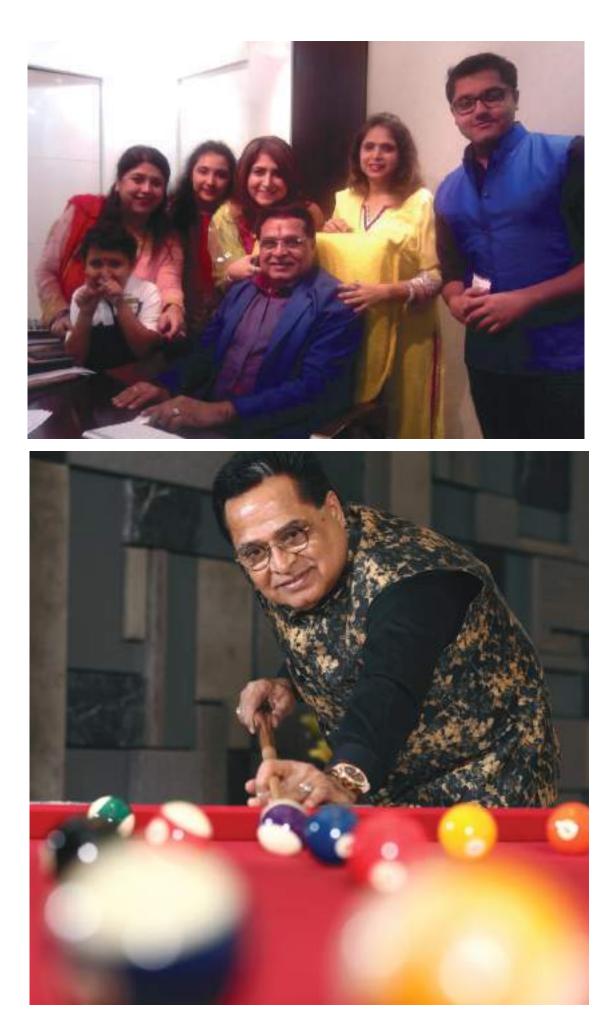
""We Sindhis do not take anything for granted. We got refugee status within our own country but we did not give up. We had an unwavering faith and a spirit of innovation; we fought all odds and today stand with irrevocable dignity. been successfully doing so since the past five years apart from other community building activities, he says in a humble tone.

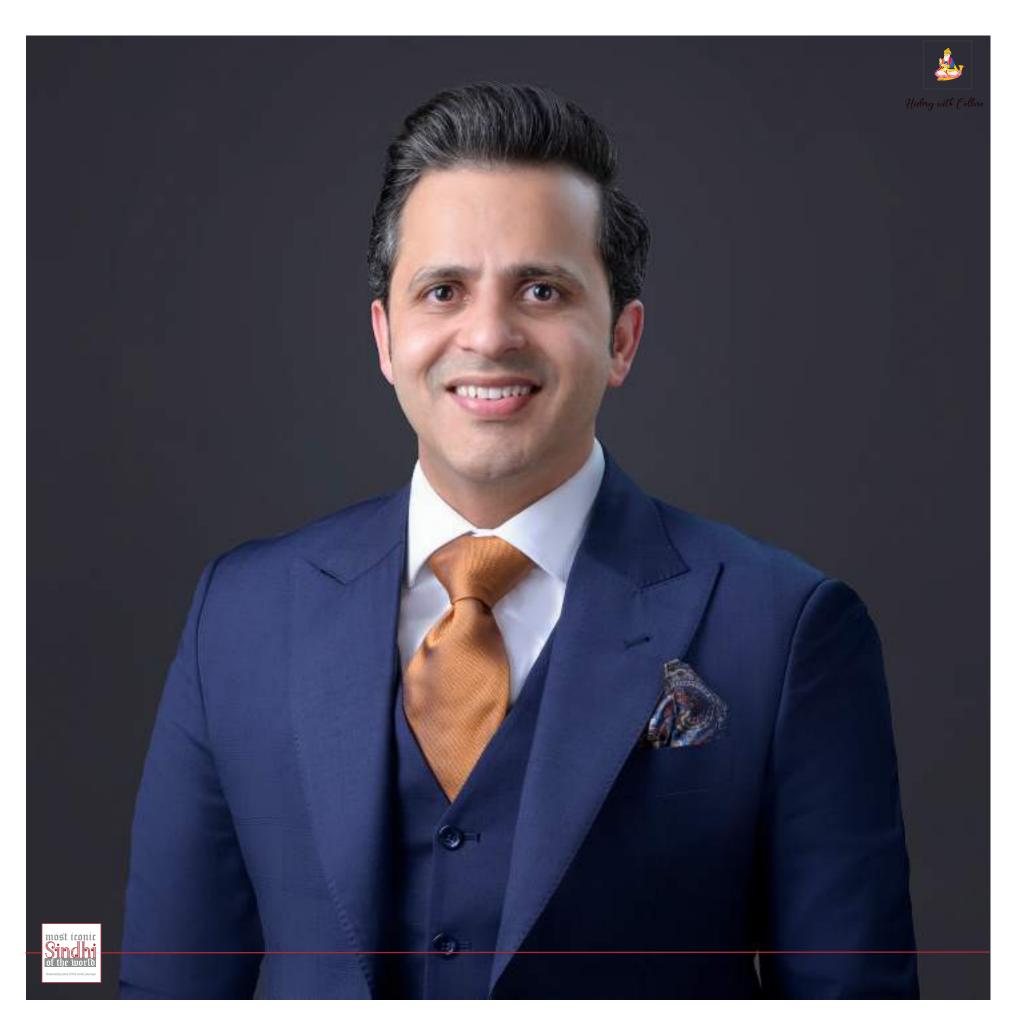


A very meticulous and soft-spoken person, Gurnani says in a lighter tone, "There's a popular saying that we Sindhis have sugar on our tongue and ice on our heads," means the people from this community are very polite and even-tempered, they hardly get rude or angry on anyone. Virtues and good manners are very important for the people of Sindhi Community. Gurnani believes that it is very important to meticulously preserve their rich cultural heritage and language by entrusting the coming generation to understand and preserve the cultural legacy, cuisine, language and spiritual teachings handed down by their forefathers and applying modern technological ways and means to create interest in the changing times.

He says, "It is a fact that everyone is flocking towards modernity and forgetting their traditions but even today Sindhi households promote compelling insights into their customs and tradition. Most of us try to speak in Sindhi at homes and honor our guests with Sindhi food. I strongly believe our culture and cuisine will never wane out."

He feels that 'the Most Iconic Sindhis of the World' will bring Sindhis across the world together and help them all reflect about their blessings and milestones, the book will enrich our personal libraries for the years to come, he concludes beaming with joy and positivity.





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# Building Dreams... systematically

#### MONISH RAMCHANDANI- CEO, Founder & MD, QCON GENERAL TRADING LLC

"A born entrepreneur, Monish started his own business from scratch and today he is the CEO and founder of QCON that stands for Quality Construction Solutions"



The cultural heritage of any society serves as a bedrock or the most valuable asset. Sindhi society unquestionably has the gifts of optimism, progressiveness and profound dedication as a part of their genetic makeup. They consider the superlative and extraordinary sacrifices and contributions of their forefathers as their guiding principles in all their endeavours. The fabric of the success story of Sindhi society is well bound by the idea of collective growth, togetherness and unconditional support for each other. One more gem from this enterprising group of people is Monish Ramchandani, a scion of the family that has a legacy of over hundred years in fruits and vegetables trading.



Proving himself as a born entrepreneur, Monish started his own business from scratch and today he is the CEO and founder of QCON that stands for Quality Construction Solutions, a pioneering company in the construction chemical distribution in the UAE and the whole of the MENA region.

A dynamic young entrepreneur, Monish talking about his accomplishments, says, "After completing my education, I joined my family business and moved to UAE In the year 2003. With a view of diversifying the business, I ventured into the construction sector and got an opportunity to work with big names like Hempel Paints, BASF and MAPEI and eventually realised to set up a one-stop solution providing unit. Thus came QCON, an award winning company that enables our clients to make their construction experience simpler and memorable. QCON has been a part of renowned projects like Royal Atlantis Residences, Dubai Creek harbours, several pavilions at Dubai Expo 2020 and many more." During his time in the construction sector in the UAE, Mr. Ramchandani recognised a need for a one-stop solution provider. He decided to fill this gap by bootstrapping QCON in 2015, which is a Dubai-based ONE-STOP global distribution and supply chain company. QCON has a strong reputation and is trusted by top brands to distribute their products as the "Most Valuable and Biggest Distributor". QCON's combination of representing world-leading brands and offering products in their own manufacturing brand and range of innovative, cost-effective, and sustainable products is a strong business strategy that can help the company continue to

grow and succeed. QCON is not only a leader in the construction chemicals distribution industry but also committed to serving the nation with quality construction and building materials. The fact that QCON offers warranty and technical support, on-site training, and promotes green products to reduce the carbon footprint in the country is commendable. QCON is committed to providing quality materials and services to its clients while also contributing to the nation's sustainability efforts

My message is to follow your passions, prioritize investing early, and create more value than you consume. Invest in skill development, surround yourself with positive people. For more information, kindly visit www.qconinternational.com



Monish is happily married to Janvi, a loving and supportive life partner and a working professional and they are blessed with a beautiful daughter, Simone, a brilliant student and an all-round achiever at school. Monish believes, "Sindhi people are very loving, caring and generous. They have significantly contributed to the world economy through their exceptional entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen. Today Sindhi diaspora is highly respected around the world. " For his strong business strategy and exemplary work ethics, Monish is endowed with much coveted awards and honours. He has been felicitated as the Global Youth Icon for the year 2020-21 and Superbrand Award by the Choice Awards for the year 2023 and many more awards and recognitions.

"Sindhi people are very loving, caring and generous. They have significantly contributed to the world economy through their exceptional entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen. Today Sindhi diaspora is highly respected around the world."







## **Diligence** is the mother of Good luck

MURLI BHOJWANI- Director, MNB Imports & HariOm Investments



When we speak about Australia, a beautiful country comes to our mind where the sun shines a lot, the air is pleasant and breezy, and the landscape is beautiful and breathtaking. Murli Bhojwani, is the founder and owner of MNB group of companies and investments in Sydney, who first landed in Australia in 1979 and on his later visits started his business in 1983. The Bhojwani family runs the MNB Variety Imports and has excelled in sustainable partnerships with several commerce giants all over the world. They have a global supply chain.



The diligent, hardworking and tenacious Bhojwani family's patriarch, Murli Bhojwani was born and brought up in a middle class visionary family at Jaipur, India. They were total eight siblings. His parents raised him with traditional values and a modern outlook. He completed his basic education at Jaipur and went to Singapore where his father, Mr Naraindas Bhojwani lived; and was part of Shankar's emporium group of companies. Murli had an eventful life and had a chance to stay and work in Montego Bay Jamaica and Hong Kong. He moved to Singapore.

In 1974, operated duty free stores with his brothers Laxman, Dayal, and Madhur. He got married to Laju in 1979 before moving to Sydney to start his own business. Recounting his older days, he says contemplatively, "My memories of Jaipur are beautiful and vivid. We had a very interesting adventurous childhood. They are still intact and on contrary growing fonder and stronger." Murli has very strong feelings for India. Murli says, "Opportunities come at different times for different people. My belief is that your luck and your stars play a major role in your success in life. I still believe I am an average person and it is due to almighty's grace and parent's blessings that I had such diversified experiences, professionally. God had been very kind." All through his journey he feels, his luck and his family values never left his side.

Today he enjoys multiple large businesses and invests in other ventures. Lately he has gone into developments of high-end luxury apartments and state of the art 35 thousand square meters warehouses complex.

He adds in a beautiful way, "We normally have multiple pockets in our trousers. Front and rear pockets are visible to the people around us, which are used frequently, but one should have a secret back up pocket, which comes in very handy if the things are not going in the right direction. Always keep some funds in reserve. Keep a low profile."

An extremely likeable personality, he is witty, mischievous and exhibits a very polite and friendly demeanor. He considers himself both a learner and a leader. "I am a learner, always and everywhere. I believe in learning. I observe more and talk less. I leave no opportunity to become a better version of myself. If I get into a situation where someone needs help and assistance, then I don't hesitate in leading them to the right path," he says with confidence.

र्शन - पूजन को स्पेन व आस्ट्रेलिया से पहुंचे एनआरआइ स्थान क्या रहन के कार्यना कार्य कार्यना के कार्यना कार्य का कार्यना के संस्थान कार्य कार्यना कार्यना के संस्थान कार्यना कार्यना के संस्थान कार्यना कार्यना के संस्थान कार्यना क





"We had nothing to lose. It made us defiant; we had a hard life and we were forced to work harder. We have become survivors. The present generation of Sindhis have no inkling of the struggles and sufferings of their forefathers"



Throughout the course of his notable career as a prolific business leader, Murli Bhojwani has strongly believed in giving back to the society. He wants that his effort must bring improvement and sustainability in the lives of the under-privileged. In his free time, he likes to play tennis, watch television, especially the news channels. He is fond of Sindhi food as his staple and loves to eat Chinese and Japanese cuisine. Murli is happily married and is blessed with three very respectful and successful sons Girish, Karan and Jai, who have joined the family business and are well settled. He lovingly tells that all his sons have adopted the work culture that he had set up and fulfil their professional commitments with utmost earnestness, as a true Sindhi businessperson ought to.

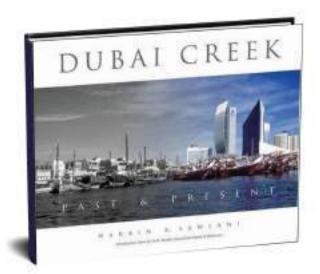
Murli feels that the Sindhi community is full of very laborious and talented people, "Sindhis were forced to leave their land at the time of partition. Overnight we became refugees in our own country. We had nothing to lose. It made us defiant; we had a hard life and we were forced to work harder. We have become survivors. The present generation of Sindhis have no inkling of the struggles and sufferings of their forefathers; they can't relate to it. We as elders need to create a culture where our children must get acquainted of their past, relate to it and respect the hardships faced by their elders. They must learn to value of each thing, respect the money spend it wisely without abusing it, and must share with the community," he concludes.



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## Living through Examples

NARAIN R SAWLANI Chairman, Radiant Traders & Royal Gardens Centre



If you ask a million people about what life means to them you will get a million different answers. There are some people who follow their hearts and dedicate themselves to community service and do something for the society that is remembered for ages. For them, living their life to the fullest does not begin and end with their own selfish interests; rather such people make full use of their capacity to build, motivate and inspire others and bring a positive change for the betterment of all. They pledge to give back to society in whatever ways possible. One such person is an 85 years young man named Nari Sawlani who is serving as a role model for his fellow Sindhis and has dedicated all his life in community building and creating a strong Sindhi society whose foundation is laid on its well preserved and robust cultural heritage. "I take it as a responsibility to carry my language forward and promote my culture. We have done a lot of work in this direction while sitting in Dubai".



Often referred to as a walking encyclopedia because he has innumerable tales of old Dubai and transformational days, Nari Sawlani, its practically has a storehouse of vintage photographs of Dubai and many beautiful memories and objects of the development and growth of Sindhi society and culture in Dubai. Recalling the past days he narrates, "My father and uncle started a firm named Regal Traders in Dubai, I came here in 1958 at the age of 20 years to join the family business. I traveled through a steam boat that took five days to reach here, now it does not even take 5 hours (he laughs). In the year 1967 I started my own firm named Royal Traders and called my brothers to join the business, and this is how my life started in Dubai and now it has been almost 6 decades and I proudly call it my home.'

Owner of Radiant traders and Royal Gardens Centre, Sawlani's diligence and devotedness has made him one of the most beloved and eminent business persons of Dubai.

An author and an artist who is in complete devotion towards his community and culture, Nari Sawlani started a group to promote and preserve Sindhi cultural heritage and language and its name is Aseen Sindhi. Speaking about his admiration towards Sindhi language he recounts, "I was ten years old when my father took me to a newly established Sindhi medium school in Mumbai. I was too old to start from the beginning but soon picked up the language and was promoted to the class that befitted my age. I developed a very keen interest in my mother tongue and learnt it through its original Arabic script. I was blessed with the finest teachers who taught me all the intricacies of the language.

Today I take it as a responsibility to carry my

language forward and promote my culture. We have done a lot of work in this direction while sitting in Dubai. We have established Sindhi center, we organize events and cultural programmes on a regular basis, he submits.





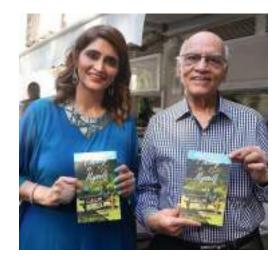
"The forefathers of Sindhi community handed over their legacy to us and we must venerate the price that they paid to give us the future in which we and our children are living safe and happy"



One of the leading veterans who have dedicated their lives towards fostering and conserving their rich cultural legacy, Nari Sawlani feels that God has blessed him and has given him an opportunity to harness the uniqueness of the Sindhi culture; it has been a kind of divine blessing.

The forefathers of Sindhi community handed over their legacy to us and we must venerate the price that they paid to give us the future in which we and our children are living safe and happy, he says. In his view the beautiful fabric of Sindhi society and cultural heritage needs to be strengthened and empowered, it is the duty of each and every individual to demonstrate and unleash their efforts for the benefit of the community.

A very wise, noble and gentle soul, Nari Sawlani is always open to learning and loves to seek knowledge incessantly. He is blessed with a very comfortable and satisfied life. He stays in his magnificent abode in Dubai with his wife, children and grandchildren.





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## A Magical reel of Cinema

PAHLAJ NIHALANI- Film producer & former Chairman of Film Central Board

"My destiny was sealed, I was born for cinema".



Indian Cinema will complete its 110 years in 2023. Unquestionably, the Indian films are one of the most watched cinema of the world that comprises the large Indian audience within India, the subcontinent, diaspora and the other nationalities across every nook and corner of the world. A film can be an instant hit or a complete blow; it largely depends on the film producer and his vision.



As a popular adage goes, it requires some amount of madness to produce a work of art. In the case of renowned filmmakers from the Indian film industry, this saying fits perfectly. Pahlaj Nilhani is one of Bollywood's most exciting producers who has a signature style of his own and has produced a number of all-time commercial hits.

Recalling his past Pahlaj tells us, "I was born in Mumbai in 1950 in a family of Sindhi businessmen. My father expired when I was just nine and a half years old. I was his eldest child and the responsibility of family business came upon my shoulders. When my father was alive he took me to watch a movie, that was my first encounter with the art form. There was a kind of divine intervention. I realized cinema is where my heart resides. All the time my mind remained occupied with it. I watched each movie ten times and some I even watched for as many as fifty times.

My destiny was sealed, I was born for cinema. I finally left my family business at 25 years of age to start my own work of film distribution."

Pahlaj Nihalani is well known for his punctuality and discipline in the Bollywood

circle. In his words, "My father was a very disciplined and honest man. As a child, I was very inspired by these traits of his personality. I believe it is very important to honor what you commit. My discipline, honesty and commitment brought me everything. I have got name, fame and above all the love of people by following these principles."

### "I believe it is very important to honor what you commit".



Pahlaj calls himself a lifelong learner, I am not even a full-fledged learner, I am beginner, and he chuckles. Even after spending practically a lifetime in showbiz, he still feels that learning is a process in continuation and having a growth-oriented mindset is very important for sustaining in the contemporary times.

We come across many people in our lifetime and learn through the experiences they give that whom we have to keep and whom to let go. We must have the discernment and understanding to make important decisions in life and it comes when we are open to learning, he adds with an undertone of philosophy.

A man of assorted talents and being divinely gifted by the right kind of stuff, Pahlaj brings hope, kindness and support to people wherever he goes. He is of the view that, "Whatever we earn it becomes our duty to give back to the society. Charity is very important for uplifting our fellow human beings and it can be more than financial help, we must try to provide emotional support whenever possible. The world needs more of it."

A forward-looking and innovative man, Pahlaj has a sense of love and solidarity for his community. He wants the fellow Sindhis to believe and take pride in their roots and in their legacy.

He is very confident of the efforts and achievements of Sindhis in India and Sindhi diaspora globally and feels that their unwavering commitment to preserve Sindhi cultural values will add to the power and glory of the otherwise one of the most successful communities in the world.

He says with a sense of pride and admiration, "Sindhis are everywhere; we have no shame in doing any sort of work because we believe in the dignity of labor. As a community we have reclaimed our self-respect and moved on miraculously by utilizing each and every possibility that came in our way. As inheritors of Indus Valley Civilization, we are the oldest citizens of the subcontinent. All we need to do is to keep the flame of our cultural legacy burning. "

Pahlaj Nihalani is blessed with three sons who are doing very well in their respective fields of interest in the film industry.

Today, he lives as a happy man under the same roof with his three sons and their families. He congratulates the creative head and the team of the publication, 'The most iconic Sindhis of the world' for their efforts in bringing a book on the very less explored Sindhi community.

"Sindhis are everywhere; we have no shame in doing any sort of work because we believe in the dignity of labor. As a community we have reclaimed our self-respect and moved on miraculously by utilizing each and every possibility that came in our way."





### Design your own destiny gracefully.

LION Dr. RAJU MANWANI- Chairman, Castles Group of Companies

"I've dedicated myself for the betterment of Society".



There are few people in the world who by their determination, grit and a little bit of good fortune overcome their hardships and achieve great heights. These people become bigger than their dreams and create an incredible benchmark. One such person is Raju Manwani, a man who was in no way born with a silver spoon in his mouth, life was very tough for him but today he stands tall and proud as a self-made successful entrepreneur. "I want the world to remember that Sindhis cannot be ignored. Sindhi society, Sindhi culture, Sindhi traditions and Sindhi language must receive their due share of patronage from the government of India. I wish to keep the flame of Sindhism alive."



Dr. Raju was the youngest among 8 siblings born in a humble Sindhi family. At a very young age due to the poor financial conditions, he was forced to do odd jobs in order to pay his school fees and buy food. The family lived a difficult life marked by acute impoverishment and spent days without any food. However, destiny had different plans for Raju and brought him to the city of Mumbai where he struggled furthermore until he reached the incredible heights of success.

He recounts, "It was 1979 when I came to Mumbai. I slept on the roads and sometimes under the bridges and ate at charitable trusts for days together. Slowly got the job of a typist and tried to make both the ends meet."

Several years of hard work and dedication

combined with countless successes that followed him, make him the most lauded Sindhi entrepreneurs in India today. At present, he is the Chairman of Castles Group of Companies, one of the leading real estate and property-dealing firms in Mumbai, India.

Very down to earth, polite and a true ambassador of Sindhi morality, Dr. Raju observes, "I soon joined RSS when I went to Mumbai and it instilled in me strict discipline and a sense of social responsibility." Other than anything else Raju feels his biggest priority is to uplift and work towards the betterment of his community.

He feels that the God has entrusted him the responsibility to work for his community, take it to the place where it deserves, and reclaim its glory and honor. His mission is to inspire, empower and connect Sindhis around the world to make his community a leading force on the world map. To make it more impactful he is regularly hosting the interactive sessions of some prominent community members on his VSSS Show (YouTube).

He pronounces lovingly, "I want the world to remember that Sindhis cannot be ignored. Sindhi society, Sindhi culture, Sindhi traditions and Sindhi language must receive their due share of patronage from the government of India. I wish to keep the flame of Sindhism alive." He feels that the Sindhi society is a business minded and resource rich society and contributes to the growth and prosperity of any place where it stays. Dr. Raju 's motive is to lead a healthy life. He believes in the concept of fit body and fit mind. He regularly practiced kho kho and Kabaddi games when he worked as a member of RSS. He also got very adept at riffle shooting and still tries his hand at it occasionally. All through his awe- inspiring life journey and illustrious career, Dr. Raju has always supported the lives of the underprivileged and accepted all the challenges that life threw at him with open arms. He says, with a firm belief, "whatever we do in life we must try to leave a legacy behind. We must work impactfully for our world and never get into any kind of negative mindset." An ardent believer in the philosophy of Karma, he thinks that one must never calculate the end

results but keep on doing his job with a firm belief in god.

Dr. Raju is a family oriented man and feels that the blessings of his deceased parents are always by his side. He is happily married and is blessed with two lovely daughters.

Dr. Raju is one of the most influential persons of Sindhi society and has served key roles at several prestigious organizations. He held the post of International Director of Lions Club International, Director of National Cooperative Housing Federation of India, Vice-President of Tae-Kwan – Do Association of Maharashtra and many more. He has also been widely adorned and awarded for his achievements and has won the prestigious Sardar Sant Singh Award, Rajasthan Gaurav Award, Police Appreciation Award and many more are in counting. Dr. Raju believes that 'The Most Iconic Sindhis of the World' initiative will applaud and recognize the people of Sindhi origin for their enterprising skills and resilience.



*"whatever we do in life we must try to leave a legacy behind. We must work impactfully for our world and never get into any kind of negative mindset."* 







### A tale of a self-made Tycoon

#### RAM BUXANI- Chairman, ITL Cosmos Group

*He feels that if almighty has blessed him, it is his duty to work for the betterment and upliftment of others who are less fortunate.* 



There are around forty thousand Sindhis in the UAE and more than one lakh in the whole Gulf. Sindhis are a group of business communities who were originally the inhabitants of Sindh region of Pakistan, but are now scattered all over the world. Leaving behind their land, culture, blood relations, assets and properties they decided not to sit back quietly and regain their lost glory. They targeted the field of business and enterprise, their old profession and today stand tall and broad with many well-known business personalities. One such name is of Ram Buxani, a self-made business tycoon.



He was born in Hyderabad district of Sindh province and has beautiful memories of his childhood spent there along with his siblings. He lost his father at an early age and the family was trying to come to terms with the reality but soon the trauma of partition followed and overnight they were reduced to the status of refugees. Speaking about the days of partition he says, "We left everything behind and sought refuge in Baroda in India. I admire the guts and determination of my mother Ishwari Bai who rose to the occasion and faced all challenges and motivated us to stay strong. "

Ram Buxani who came to Dubai in 1959 taking an arduous journey of five days by sea hoping to work with a reputed Sindhi firm, started out with humble jobs, his first job being of a typist at International Traders Ltd. and he eventually rose up to becoming the head of the ITL Cosmos Group that now covers the whole of UAE, Oman and India. The group deals in textiles, electronics, home appliances, information technology, hospitality and also represents a wide range of well-known brands all-over the world. He is a well-admired business leader and a venerated figure among the non-resident Indian Sindhis settled in the UAE.

In the year 1983 he was honored by the President of India for his contribution to the welfare of NRI's. His people-oriented and welfare of all approach has made him immensely popular among the Indian diaspora and has led him to explore and cater to various businesses.

He has always strived to use business as a means to bring good to the community and inspire and promote his fellow Sindhis to bring out the best in them through entrepreneurship. Just like a mentor and a head of the family he tries to build the people. Ram Buxani believes, "the Sindhi community has shown admirable resilience despite the challenges we faced. Very few communities who faced total displacement rose to this glory that we Sindhis have, that is why I have been extremely involved in popularizing the cause of Sindhis, globally."

An outstanding example of determination and high-handedness, he has been awarded the honorary D.Litt degree by D.Y Patil University, India. His achievements have preceded him as he has played a major role in the growth and upliftment of the Indian community in the UAE. He is the Founder-Chairman of Overseas Indians Economic Forum, he has served as the chairperson of India Club Dubai from 2012-2015 and has been the Chairperson of Indian High School, Dubai from 2000 to 2004 along with holding several other honorary positions.



#### Give cheerfully with one hand and you will gather well with two."

Ram Buxani has always been a patron of art and culture and loves to write in his free time, so far his two books have been published. He believes in constantly upgrading himself and therefore prefers to be called a perpetual learner. He is blessed with a beautiful family that comprises his wife Veena and three wonderful daughters.

Philanthropy is the way of living for Ram Buxani and he puts everyone on the same pedestal and continually works towards bringing about positive changes in the lives of everyone who is in need of help and support. He is the true embodiment of the popular adage that goes "Give cheerfully with one hand and you will gather well with two." He has undertaken and championed numerous philanthropic activities from working towards rehabilitation of the earthquake victims of Gujarat in 2001, to being a board member of Al Noor Training Center for persons with disabilities and children with special needs. He is also involved in a large number of charitable activities. For him it is always the community first and a way of life.

Ram Buxani is deeply rooted into his culture and its traditions and calls his community as a powerhouse of entrepreneurs whose resilient spirit is unmatched and unbeatable. As a true Sindhi he feels an immense need to foster all-pervasive prosperity and development of his community. He is highly optimistic of the evolutionary spirit, resilience and business sensibility of the Sindhis. He is convinced that the world cannot afford to ignore the ingenuity and the entrepreneurial skills of the Sindhis and soon the community will attain the prosperity and splendor that it deserves. He urges his fellow Sindhis to integrate the values passed down

to them by their forefathers, remember their sacrifices and the glory of their culture and language. He wants the present generation to honor and preserve the legacy that has come down to them. By respecting their values and traditions, they can usher a new era of socio-economic and cultural resurrection of Sindhi community, believes Ram Buxani.



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# Those who believe in the beauty of their dreams

DATUK SHAH LALCHAND RANAI DPSM.JP - Ede Ravenscroft (Malaysia) CEO & Director

"Visionary leaders see a potential in the future and constantly strive for bigger and better things"



When you talk about a visionary leader you think about an individual who thinks outside the box and strives to achieve his objective in a focused manner. Visionary leaders see a potential in the future and constantly strive for bigger and better things. One such person is Shah Lalchand Ranai, a remarkable entrepreneur and a prominent social figure in Sindhi society. Born and brought up in Malaysia, Shah considers himself as a lifelong learner. He sees all the experiences of life as lessons for his future progress and treats them as stepping stones. Shah owns his own state of art tailoring store and a company in partnership with Ede and Ravenscroft for many years; (Ede and Ravenscroft company stretches a timeline of over 325 year) and supplies robes for the British monarchs and countless robes for other occasions like coronations, civil and legal ceremonies and graduation ceremonies across the key universities in UK and other international institutions of high repute.

Shah submits, "I was born and raised in Malaysia and as any other Sindhis,I too joined my family business, a very popular high end retail tailoring shop. We Sindhis join family businesses and gradually branch out with our own. Soon I came up with my own company of Clothing business. Today my company serves 70 to 80%. of British universities."

An inspiration to many in the Sindhi community and in the outside world, Shah is popularly known for his efforts and vision for the development and growth of Sindhi community. His services for the Sindhi community are vastly recognized and honored. He has been conferred with many prestigious awards and honors including awards from the Malaysian government for serving local Sindhi community in the country. The biggest motivation for Shah is to ensure general good and empowerment of all. A very courteous, uplifting and optimistic person, Shah believes that it is important to envision a future for the Sindhi community that may establish deep roots for the cultural and social development of the community. As an outspoken a hardworking crusader of Sindhism and Sindhi values and cultural development, Shah has a vision to set up a Jhulelal temple.

He says, "We must have a Jhulelal Temple for the Sindhi community on the lines of Golden temple. It can be set up in Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra and serve as a pilgrimage center for the Sindhis across the world."



"Sindhis have crossed boundaries and started their journey like refugees. We went through hardships and became very tough and challenging people. We learnt to earn our own livelihood. Our success stories are incredible.

As a very humble, generous and upright entrepreneur, he believes in inspiring others from his community to come up and work for the upliftment and betterment of the society.

Shah has been the longest serving President of the Sindhi Association of Malaysia and has chaired International Sindhi Sammelan in Kuala Lumpur. He is a pro-active member of Alliance Global Sindhi Association (AGSA) that has its headquarters in US and represents Sindhis all over the world.

He submits fervently, "Sindhis have crossed boundaries and started their journey like refugees. We went through hardships and became very tough and challenging people. We learnt to earn our own livelihood. Our success stories are incredible. We are filled with the spirit of philanthropy and charitable instincts and serve wherever we go. Dada Vasvani Trust has done tremendously in the field of charity and humanitarian cause. My vision is to establish a Global Sindhi Food Bank, an organization through which food can be provided to the people who undergo humanitarian crisis in any part of the world."

Shah feels Sindhi Community has a great potential and has become a very important economic denominator wherever it is placed in the world. It brings possibilities and generates opportunities for one and all, locally and globally. He has full confidence in the exceptionally motivated, determined and enterprising youth of his community.

As a true embodiment of work-life balance, Shah still enjoys playing badminton five times a week and is very passionate about the game. He calls himself a bigtime foodie and is very fond of Malaysian, Chinese and Indian cuisine but prefers to eat his first love, Sindhi food on the regular basis.

Shah is very optimistic about his efforts and of others like him who want to preserve and promote the Sindhi culture and its rich traditions.









### Bringing light and hope

SHYAM RUPCHAND JETHNANI- Chairman / President Gandhi Seva Loka



Shyam Rupchand Jethnani, the President of Gandhi Seva Lok, Jakarta tells, "My father who belonged to Khandu (Pakistan) came to Indonesia in 1940. My mother hails from Hyderabad, now in Pakistan. She was already here, with her family, when my parents got married in 1949. So, I was born in this country in 1951.We are in all, 6 brothers and 3 sisters. One of my sisters is in Mumbai, one is no more, and the third is here in Jakarta. All my brothers are settled here in Jakarta. My father's homeland always attracted me".



His father was involved in the social service during the last 20-30 years of his life until 2003 at the age of 85 when he departed for the heavenly abode. Shyam was deeply impacted by his father's life and works and they remain his source of inspiration.

"I saw his active involvement in solving problems of the 30-40 Indian families settled in Indonesia, when he came here in 1940, he initially worked under the 'Dutch' for sometime. Later, he worked for the Japanese. Thereafter, he returned to Sindh for a short while, but returned to work for the Dutch till 1945, when Indonesia acquired Independence. Then around 1947-48, he went back to Sindh, got married in Bombay in 1949, and subsequently came here for good."

Due to weak financial condition in his early life, Shyam had to give up on studies and join his father at work. I regret my inability to obtain higher education but want to ensure that my children are not deprived of the best education available, he adds with a sad undertone. At the time of the Communist coup in Indonesia, the new government regulation, ordered the closure of all foreign schools in Indonesia but due to close ties with India, 3 Indian schools viz. Gandhi International School in Jakarta, Vidya Bhavan in Surbaya and Nehru School in Bandung, were granted exemption. I am proud to say that we now have six schools, entirely owned by us, he tells with a beaming face.





He is very proud of his community and the rich cultural legacy.

At the time of partition in 1947 the Indian traders established 'Bombay Merchants Association' in Indonesia, which is now known as 'Gandhi Seva Loka' and Shyam Jethnani is its present Chairman.

He is actively engaged in providing all type of aid medical, education, financial, to the underprivileged. They promote India culture and celebrate Diwali, where Indians from all communities are welcomed and specifically for the Sindhis, they hold "Cheti Chand" celebrations and also once every two months a gathering for senior citizens from the community is organised called "Vadan jo Melo".

Shyam feels that the stalwarts from his community must come forward and help the

weak and underprivileged Sindhi families in every way possible to ensure a decent living standard for them.

He is very proud of his community and the rich cultural legacy.

An extract from Dr Ram Jawhrani's book – Global Sindhis Part II



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# Follow your heart wherever you go

SIMRAN AHUJA-Ms India, Actress, TV Host, Celebrity Emcee, Author, Dancer, Cultural Ambassador & Yoga trainer.



There are several success stories but some are awe-inspiring and seem like a dream come true. They enjoy an everlasting appeal and keep on inspiring the generations for ages. One such story that gives us hope and courage is of Simran Ahuja, a former Miss India, an actor, emcee, anchor, entrepreneur and a yoga master trainer along with many other versatile roles that she takes up from time to time. Alumni of Jai Hind College, Mumbai and Sydenham Institute of Management, Mumbai with a Master's Degree in Finance, Simran comes from a family where huge impetus was given to education and academics by both her parents.

"My mother wanted me to become an official with the government of India, today I represent India at several levels, I have fulfilled her dream, but differently"



Hailing from a very humble background her parents always felt that education is the key to success for all their children. Simran is the youngest daughter among five brothers and sisters and all her siblings are doing very well personally and professionally. Speaking about her past days, Simran says with a tone of nostalgia, "My mother never received any formal education but is the wisest and intelligent woman I have ever seen. My father had a spiritual bent of mind and both my parents displayed a fantastic combination of beauty, intelligence and dedication. All their attention was on raising us well and on our studies, they always wanted us to excel in academics. I completed my post-graduation in the field of finance for my parent's satisfaction but I

was always inclined towards the glamor industry, inherently. I was well-received and won prizes and awards at dance festivals, cultural events and beauty contests. My destiny was taking me to places and I was climbing the stairs of success. It instilled confidence in me, and here I am today."

Winner of Miss India Beauty Contest for the Year 2013 and many other beauty pageants. She is a classic example of beauty with brains, Simran's success story speaks about a person who despite her humble beginnings dares to dream high and through her self-belief, hard work and dedication and with a tingle of good fortune has achieved that others with years of training, grooming and strong background are not able to do. Simran has many feathers on cap. She has worked with the top notch Bollywood and Hollywood celebrities, worth mentioning are Micheal Douglas, Kai Greene, Amir Khan, Hrithik Roshan, Salman Khan and the list is never ending. She has hosted a number of award shows and beauty pageants across the world. She has served as a jury member for many national and international beauty pageants and dance festivals.

My mother wanted me to become an official with the government of India, today I represent India at several levels, I have fulfilled her dream, but differently, she tells with a beaming face.



Vivacious, free-spirited and very glamorous, Simran feels that her childhood memories, her finding right opportunities at the right times and presence of a strong female character in the form of her mother really played a big role in shaping her personality and paved the way for her illustrious career. Simran is a PhD in Naturopathy and a very popular yoga

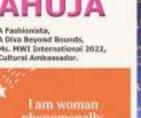
A true demonstrator of Sindhi spirit of self-reliance, uprightness and humility, she always displays a very humble and grounded demeanor. instructor; her online yoga classes during the first wave of infamous COVID times became very popular among the masses.

A person with lots of self-assurance, optimism and ingenuity, Simran feels that Sindhi society has the potential not only to shape the economy but also it is replete with hugely talented artists who need slight guidance, mentorship and support. Sindhis find opportunities and possibilities wherever they go, she adds.

An inspiration for many, Simran is practically traveling for most of the time throughout different countries of the world fulfilling her professional obligations. Her mother implored her to do something for the Sindhi community and thus, she is also the official anchor of the Alliance Sindhi World Association, the parent organization of all the Sindhi associations around the world.

As a true demonstrator of Sindhi spirit of self-reliance, uprightness and humility, she always displays a very humble and grounded demeanor. She draws her greatest motivation from the act of being grateful for the smallest blessings that come to her. She is very fond of Sindhi delicacies like Sai Bhaji and Tahiri. Simran is confident that the project 'The most iconic Sindhis of the world' will reach great heights and showcase the efforts and success stories of the Sindhis in India and globally and their unwavering commitment to safeguard their cultural values.





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SIMRAN AHUJA - YOGA LOVER





### Think like a Legend

VASU SHROFF- Chairman Regal Group



Sindhi Community perfectly represents the traits of a true businessman like inventiveness, skillfulness and hard work at its best. A community contributes maximum to the economy of the country it resides in. One can get to know several hidden gems of the Sindhi community while reading this book. One such icon and an institution in himself is Vasu Shroff, a man whose credibility precedes him in the UAE and worldwide, a high achiever and a visionary who has given Sindhi community a position and recognition that it deserves in the UAE. With his Midas touch and a heart that beats for humanity, Vasu Dada (that he is lovingly referred to) has contributed to manifold development and empowerment of his community through his business model and works in philanthropy.





Vasu Shroff's family is included among the MENA region's top business families. He is the chairman of the Regal group, initially a textile venture that has expanded today into a multimillion-dollar empire as with the passage of time he diversified his business and established several subsidiaries with a legacy that will span over generations. His company today has the credit of holding partnerships with the prestigious news channels like OSN and Al Jazeera. With a solid professional experience, which expands to several decades, practically a major lifetime, Vasu still perceives a vision to develop and strengthen his community in whichever way possible. A man of high respect and repute, Vasu has reached the pinnacle of success professionally and socially through his goodness, diligence and exceptional work ethics.

He landed in Dubai from India to join his family business when he was just twenty years old and has several interesting accounts of how Dubai used to be in the 1960's and 1970's, an era when there was no modernization or present day luxuries and amenities.

His strong attachment to his parent country, India led him to contribute to several economically strategic agreements and joint ventures between India and UAE, hereby establishing him as a business developer.





A very genuine, generous and a low-profile individual, Vasu has been instrumental in setting up several hospitals, school, temples, elder homes and similar institutions of a kind in the UAE, India and the rest of the world. He is the co-founder of the prestigious Indian High School in Dubai, UAE and his business group runs the main Hindu temple in Meena Bazaar, Bur Dubai, and now in Jebel Ali. He has also been the Chairperson of nonprofit group India Club Dubai. He has been listed in Forbes top 100 businesspersons from India in UAE and has won several awards and honors for his social and philanthropic initiatives.

A man who is now in his 80s, Vasu Dada still beams with zeal and zest and calls himself a learner as he feels that there is a constant need to grow, build and develop in life. Deeply in love with his people he endearingly says, "Sindhis are like water mixed with any color. They interact and accept the life, culture and nuances of the place where they go, effortlessly. We are business-spirited, creative and innovative. Business is our forte. We are excelling entrepreneurs but we definitely need to safeguard our language and script that lies on the verge of extinction."

'The Iconic Sindhis of the world' will represent Sindhi world of today's times in a miniature version and will serve as a historic document for the future generations, he concludes.



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# Branding concepts into reality

VIJAY SAMYANI - Founder & Chairman-CBBC, Brands4U, Brandsbay.com, Ramadan Big Bazaar, Bee Me Events - Concept Brands Group



A Man from Rajasthan who came to Dubai in 1991 with the help of his deceased father's friend when he needed employment to support his family back home, Vijay Samyani is today the founder and chairman of Concept Brands Group. A man who worked as salesman at Sheeba General Trading, Bur Dubai today runs Brands4U, a go to store for brands shopping in

UAE, a luxury retail chain. Speaking about his business achievements Vijay says, "I am a Sindhi, hard-work, devotion and never-to-give-up spirit runs in my blood. It is a part of my genetic makeup. We Sindhis are very well told in advance at our homes that we have to do our own work and there is no alternative to hard work."



A simple conversation with Vijay brings out fondness and affection that he feels toward his community and its people. Vijay dreams and hopes for a better and bright future for his community.

He believes Sindhi people are known all over for their business sense, resilience and fortitude. He is one of the many Sindhi entrepreneurs from Dubai who have faced all the challenges with a brave face and have created a niche for themselves in the business world.

He is of the view that each and every person from the Sindhi community must understand his responsibility towards their community and culture and especially their disappearing Sindhi language in order to foster a viable and all round development of the community. He believes in passing on the responsibility of the preservation of Sindhism in the hands of future generations safely.

He puts it adroitly, "We must pass on the treasures of our history, civilization and culture to our children with utmost care. They should be made aware of the sacrifices and struggles of our fore-fathers and must understand their duty to give back to the society. There is a need to promote and encourage Sindhi language and as elders of the family we must try to

consciously use to it as much as possible. Sindhi Cuisine is very rich and delicious as any other popular cuisines and must be brought at the forefront so that the world can relish on it."

"I am a Sindhi, hard-work, devotion and never-to-give-up spirit runs in my blood. It is a part of my genetic makeup. We Sindhis are very well told in advance at our homes that we have to do our own work and there is no alternative to hard work." As a highly dedicated and successful business man, Vijay considers himself as a learner and remains open to learning at each point and place in life. He believes in using his life experiences and lessons to guide future entrepreneurs.

Vijay is happily married to Nisha Samyani who helps him in his business. Together they are blessed with two beautiful girls. The family tries to keep intact the Sindhi values and customs. In his free time, Vijay chooses to spend quality time with family and friends. Also as a passionate businessman, for him his work is one of the greatest motivational factor that always brings him joy and fulfilment.

Vijay sees 'The iconic Sindhis of the World' project with multiple possibilities as it will bring forward the culture, traditions and rich heritage to the knowledge of the outside communities, it will enlighten and educate its readers about Sindhi life and culture along with the inspiring stories of innumerable talented and successful business entrepreneurs from the community. This attempt will definitely inspire, encourage and educate the future generations of Sindhis, he believes.





The iconic Sindhis of the World' project with multiple possibilities as it will bring forward the culture, traditions and rich heritage to the knowledge of the outside communities, it will enlighten and educate its readers about Sindhi life and culture".





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### Be in Love with your worklife

VINOD HARWANI (SHAMMI) - Director, Richa Foods LLC

#### GULF NEWS 😹

#### **UAE SUCCESS STORIES**

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"My company Richa Food LLC, manufactures and supplies foodstuff to the local market and also deals in the exports in over 30 countries in the food commodities. I have also been known for taking challenges".

Love is a powerful emotion, throughout human history it has played a pivotal role and has created great romances, tragedies and masterpieces. It makes one cross-oceans and deserts. One such incredibly romantic tale is of businessman Vinod Harwani (commonly known as Shammi) who took a major decision to move to UAE at the age of 18 years in order to marry his lady love. Henceforth, it can be assumed that it was love that guided him towards professional success in life

Vinod originally comes from an enterprising family of Sindh who moved and settled in a small town called Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, India. His father had a traditional mustard oil business but he succumbed to jaundice very early in life. Vinod and his siblings had to face many hardships owing to their father's early demise. His elder sister got married in Dubai and paved the way for her brothers to make a mark for themselves in the UAE.

Vinod moved to Dubai as he had fallen in love at the age of 18 and wanted to get married. In the year 1988, he moved to Dubai and worked for a period of two years, went back to India at the age of 20, got married and returned back with newer plans and aspirations. A man with a great zeal and conviction in everything he takes up, Vinod dealt in the electronics business in Dubai, then moved to Ras Al Khaimah and started his wholesale textile store but moved back to Dubai again and subsequently started his business in foodstuff and beverage. His company Richa Food LLC, manufactures and supplies foodstuff to the local market and also deals in the exports in over 30 countries in the food commodities.

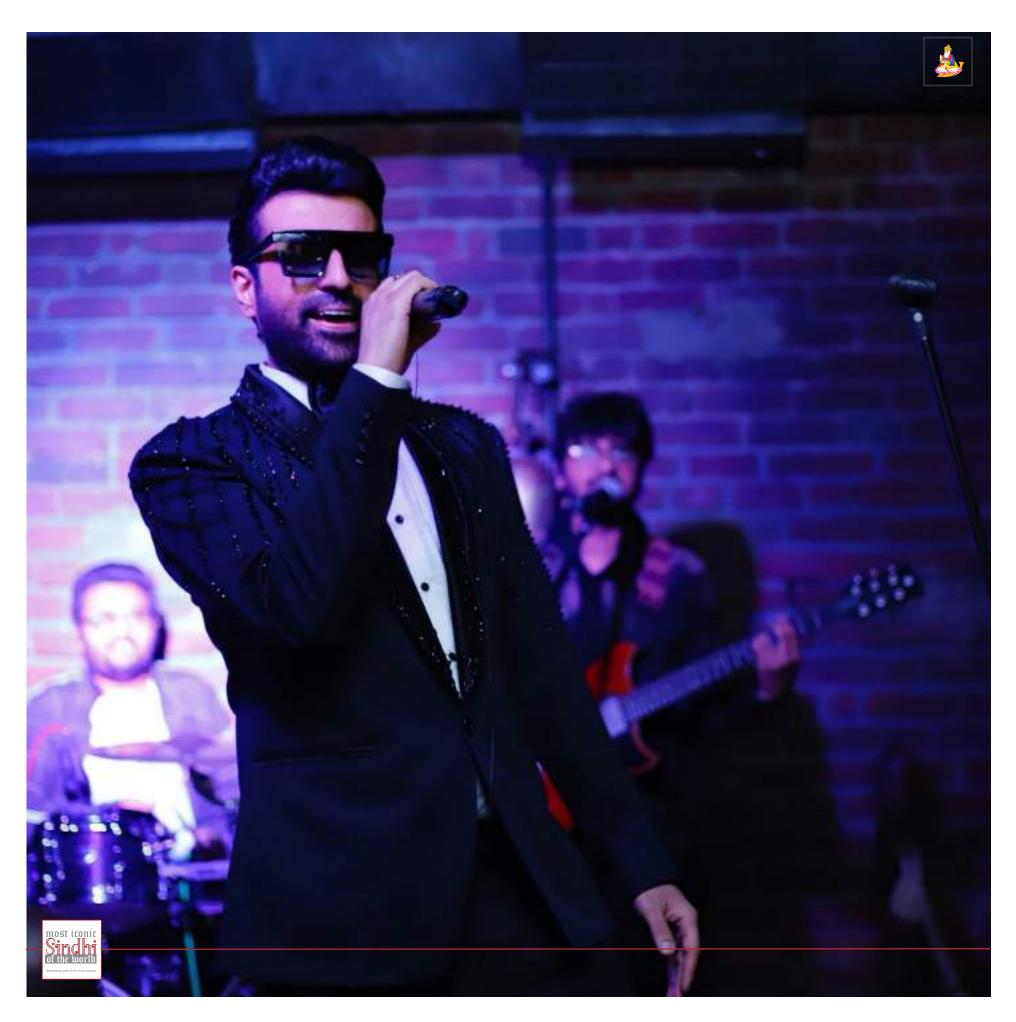
A very soft spoken and humble man, Vinod is completely passionate about his work and like a true Sindhi businessman does not shy away from the extra hours at work or the challenges that come his way while dispensing his professional obligations. He follows the popular idiom "work is worship", in its literal sense.

Vinod's heart is filled with grace and gratitude and he calls himself an eternal learner who finds a teaching in each and every experience of life whether good or bad. He finds every person he comes across teaching him something about life. In his free time he loves to spend time with his family and friends, also he enjoys playing golf five days a week as it gives him a great inner peace and relaxation. He has lot of praises for his kids – they are really gem as they know what is to be done,

Like a true Sindhi he sees his community as a major contributor in the development of the economy of UAE. When asked about his views on the endeavors like 'The Most Iconic Sindhis in the world', he says with great emphasis that, "efforts as these instill self-confidence and pride among the members of the Sindhi community and helps the younger and coming generations to get aware of the struggles and achievements of the Sindhi people and their rich cultural heritage. "

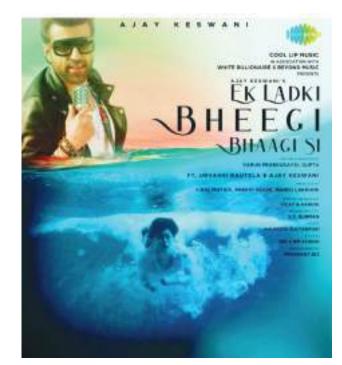


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# YES, I am very Prolific

#### AJAY KESWANI - Singer / Performer / Composer



Bhopal is the capital city of India's heartland state, Madhya Pradesh. Known as the 'city of lakes', the place exhibits a paradox of the old and new, ruins of the nawab era on one hand and contemporary architecture on the other. This unique and green city has a district named Bairagarh adjacent to it which is home to a large chunk of Sindhi population, the

business-centric community of India. Bairagarh is one of the oldest Sindhi camps that were created at the time of partition for accommodating Sindhi migrant population, there are more than a lakh Sindhis residing in Bairagarh and now it's name is changed and kept after the venerated Sindhi saint, Hirdaram and it is known as 'Sant Hirdaram Nagar'. *my musical compositions were very well appreciated by the leading music companies in India like T-Series. Zee, Sony, Venus, Eros and Tips , and today we have composed almost 300 plus songs .*"



Ajay Keswani, a highly prolific, versatile and hugely talented boy from the small town, Bhopal, is today displaying his exemplary skills in different fields, namely, electronics, real estate, financial markets and music industry. Speaking of his journey from Bhopal to Dubai he tells, "I was born and raised in Bhopal in a close knit family showed gratitude towards his parents for his wonderful upbringing (Raj Kumar keswani , Kusum keswani and sister Sonia keswani ). I went for my higher education to Pune and Delhi, respectively, got recruited through campus placement in Jumbo Electronics, Dubai and landed here around 22 years back. My journey in the UAE has been fantastic so far. After working with companies like Jumbo Electronics and Itsalat, I decided to start my own company named Smart Communications LLC and we became the

distributors of Apple products throughout the UAE and Bahrain. Simultaneously, I also got involved in the real estate business. I always had a penchant and good understanding of playing a wide variety of(29) musical instruments, the year 2017 took me to Mumbai. My very talented partner duo Sanjeev chaturvedi and my musical compositions were very well appreciated by the leading music companies in India like T-Series. Zee, Sony, Venus, Eros and Tips, and today we have composed almost 300 plus songs." Music is the key thing that defines Ajay and he brings the amazing beats to life through his authentic style. With a lot of confidence in himself and his abilities, the hardworking Sindhi Singer/composer tells that his biggest motivation in life is his impulsive and workaholic temperament that does not let him remain idle for a second. His work

keeps him uplifted and motivated as seeing himself as a Singer, Composer and head of a Fund Management company makes him utterly satisfied about his accomplishments. Ajay Keswani is a man who turned his visions into reality through his risk-taking attitude, self-belief and dedication. Ajay feels that he is a combination of both a learner and a teacher. He believes that learning is a never ending process. "I had no banking or music background but I learnt through each and every means, and today I have a substantial amount of knowledge of both the fields. I can share my learnings with anyone who needs my help or mentorship." Highly positive and committed individual, Ajay feels that the biggest challenge for him is that of time management. Due to his professional commitments and extensive travel, he is hardly able to spare time for his family.

As he said, he is really thankful to his wife(Dimple keswani) who does everything perfectly on her own and has been raising their children single handedly. She is a perfect wife and without her rock support, he would not have been able to achieve anything. His busy schedule keeps him on toes and he finds no time for any leisure activities. Currently my work-life balance is unbalanced and I need to get back on track, he adds. Ajay is blessed with two children, both boys and tells that his wife, Dimple, a doting wife and the best mother who takes good care of the family. She tries to inculcate Sindhi values and has taught Sindhi language to both my sons, today my sons speak better Sindhi than me, he chuckles.

Ajay stands in complete solidarity with his community and feels that Sindhis are the most polite, enterprising and focused people on the planet. Their sweet temperament and religious bent of mind makes them all the more endearing. We Sindhis have to love and build each other, we must believe in our cultural roots and each one of us must play a role in making the community rise and shine, he says with hope in his eyes.

He is highly convinced that the upcoming project 'the most iconic sindhis of the world' will tell the world that the Sindhi community is definitely impactful and therefore, cannot be ignored. We are no more migrants or refugees but very much in frontline and proving our self-worth, he sums up as a proud Sindhi.

Sindhis are the most polite, enterprising and focused people on the planet. Their sweet temperament and religious bent of mind makes them all the more endearing.







# Determination brings Satisfaction

CHIMAN BHOJRAJ DARYANI



"A people without knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots." - Marcus Garvey

Sindhis are a group of people who do not wait for opportunities to drop in their way rather they are always prepared to generate possibilities for themselves. They are distinctively innovative, have a capability to find unique and multiple possibilities in a given situation, and place. They become the best entrepreneurs wherever they go because of their swiftness in adapting and accepting all that comes their way. They are never deterred by the hardships and failures and are rather solution-oriented businessmen.



Chiman Bhojraj Daryani is a living legend as he has astutely followed the principles of hard work, attentiveness and very strong work ethics throughout his illustrious career spanning over practically a whole lifetime. Daryani, an astutely dedicated and successful businessperson who primarily dealt in textiles and ventured into many other businesses side by side had been very successful in all his endeavors because of his uprightness and hardwork. While remembering his past he says, "I come from the family of migrant Sindhis who settled in Ajmer. Since my childhood I wanted to go to Dubai and do some work there. Soon my brother who had already settled in Dubai called me there in the year 1973 and the rest is all history. All my wishes came true in this land of hope and possibilities. I did a lot of business in the UAE and MENA region."

A very soft spoken, loving and benevolent soul, Chiman Daryani started a retail tailoring store of customized and curated men's wear named Sartor for his son, Girish Daryani in 2015 and leads a very happy and satisfied life today. He says with utmost sense of gratitude, "God has always been very kind to me. I got opportunities and I felt grateful and kept working hard, if needed I even swept the floors. I respected my work and the almighty held my hands.

When I look back in retrospection I feel complacent. I have lived a dream life, I worked, I made money, I became blessed with a lovely family, I traveled, I enjoyed.

Today I stand as a satisfied man. "



A man in the twilight years of his life, Chiman Daryani thinks that his community has always worked relentlessly and Sindhis have struggled to create a respectable place for themselves in the society. Nobody can ignore the Sindhi community today.

History shows our struggles but we Sindhis re-claimed our self-esteem, economic prosperity and preserved our cultural heritage all by ourselves. Our insurmountable entrepreneurial ideals are making an incalculable contribution to the GDP of the countries where we live and work, he says. Daryani also feels that all Sindhis must unite to revitalize the rich cultural heritage, which is an integral part of Sindhi community and took shape centuries ago.

We must all prioritize the need of using Sindhi language as a mode of communication at our homes so that we can make our little contribution in the integration of our cultural legacy. The future of Sindhi community lies in our own hands. We must all stand exceptionally committed towards our virtues and traditions, he says steadfastly.

He views the publication 'The most iconic Sindhis of the world' as an epoch-making step that will reinvigorate the Sindhi community and help them and others know about their achievements and success stories.





## **Pioneering** Sindhi Aesthetics

DEEPAK PERWANI- Prominent Fashion Designer & Actor



As an Indo-Aryan ethnic group from Sindh province, Sindhi community is an embodiment of two concepts i.e. hardwork and enterprise. Their business skills are par-excellence. Deepak Perwani is a dynamic Sindhi Fashion Designer and an Actor from Mirpurkhas, Sindh, Pakistan who has made a name for himself for all the right reasons. He started his designer boutique around 25 years ago and now owns five stores across major cities of Pakistan that represent the rich heritage of timeless Pakistani craftsmanship and authentic designs.



"I believe in taking charge and try to be out of the box"





Brand Deepak Perwani has a supply chain to several countries and is known for earning spotlight for Pakistani-Sindhi meticulous artistry, globally. His creations have been showcased in Paris, Milan, New York, London and at all major fashion events across the globe.

He has been featured in international books as a brand name. He has been mentioned in a much-famed book in the fashion industry, Frida Kalho: Fashion as an Art of Being and also in the Atlas of world renowned fashion designers. The veteran designer from Sindh has bagged several coveted awards. He has won the Best Designer Award from the European Fashion Council, Lux Style Award for Best Men's Wear, MTV Style Guru Award, Best Designer at Malaysian Fashion Week and many others.

A face behind changing the perception about Pakistani fashion, Deepak Perwani brand was launched by him in 1994-95. With an eponymous career, stretching to over two decades, he is celebrated for his seamless admixture of tradition and avant garde styles of craftsmanship. His luxury and pret collection for men and women inspire everyone with their aesthetics and represent his organic style that does not blindly follow any trends.

Apart from being a celebrity designer, he is much respected for his work towards promoting social activism and poverty alleviation, especially his charity and support for the rural women of Pakistan.

He has been active in involving local and indigenous artisans and craftspeople in reviving traditional Pakistani embroidery work and designing techniques, thereby hugely contributing to economic sustainability. An elected chairperson of Pakistan Fashion Council and Pakistan's most endeared designer, Deepak has got his name included in the Guinness Book of World Records for designing the largest kurta in the world. According to him, his career started accidentally during his stay in New York in 1994 when the designer made a few shirts to earn some pocket money and to his surprise, they got immediately sold with a demand of making more. It was thus, an end and a beginning; there was no looking back for him.

Deepak comes from an illustrious Sindhi-Hindu family of Mirpurkhas. He has two more siblings who are settled in Dubai and London respectively. He has styled artists in several Pakistani dramas, Lollywood actors and some Bollywood stars.

Besides being an ace-designer Deepak is also an actor, he ecstatically submits his keen interest in acting and making frequent appearances in Pakistani drama, mini-series and telefilms.

As a proud Sindhi he loves his culture, traditions and its people.





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### Aroma of Sindhi cuisine

JYOTI VISHNANI- Consultant Chef, Expert in Regional Cuisines

"Sindhis have it in their DNA to think out of the box, take up the challenges. They know how to make things work successfully. They reach the missing gaps in the market and fill them.



Sindh is renowned for its rich culture and vibrancy. Another thing that makes the region popular is its distinct culinary tradition. This cuisine is flavorsome, aromatic and exotic; And is primarily influenced by the local dynasties and the invaders that came to the region at different points in time. In post-partition times, many Sindhis were forced to flee to India and took refuge in different parts of the country. On their arrival to India, they brought with them a unique culinary tradition that was wholeheartedly accepted by the majority of Indians.



Known as 'Mini Sindh in India' Ulhasnagar became home for a large migrant population of Sindhi Hindus who came to India at the time of great exodus. These migrants started building their lives afresh through their innate entrepreneurial skills. Celebrity Chef Jyoti Vishnani is the second generation Sindhi from the migrant family that settled in Ulhasnagar.

She is daughter of a businessman father and a dress designer mother. Recalling her liking for cooking she tells that "As my mother ran a boutique and remained busy in designing clothes she asked me to prepare delicacies during diwali times which I actually started to





like and enjoyed in my teen years. Soon I joined a cookery class and got popular in my neighborhood for my cooking skills and they started calling me to assist them in preparing different delicacies wherever some guests arrived at their place. It further cemented my confidence."

In the initial years her family didn't support her to go for the Hotel Management Course due to lack of proper information because it was considered a low brow profession as compared to conventional careers like Medicine and Engineering. She studied for an engineering degree and thereafter took a job but never enjoyed either because subconsciously it was her passion for cooking that kept nudging her from inside. Soon she got an opportunity in the form of MasterChef India Season 4 where she got a place in top 25 participants. She realized that cooking was her call and despite everyone's advice to not to leave her comfortable corporate job she decided to take up a job with Sanjeev Kapoor Kitchen, a restaurant in Doha, Qatar in 2015 and there was no looking back since then.

She submits that In 2018 she realized that she needs to work towards promoting Sindhi food as it was not as popular as other regional cuisines of India. She started organizing food festivals across many countries and attained instant success and recognition.

She also enjoys the honor of being invited to teach about Sindhi culinary tradition at various top class educational institutions in India.



"I have done better than what I have planned in life."

"Sindhis have it in their DNA to think out of the box, take up the challenges. They know how to make things work successfully. They reach the missing gaps in the market and fill them. Sindhis are everywhere in the world and are contributing to the development of the world economy," says Jyoti with a sparkle in her eyes when asked about the contribution of her community to the world economy. She believes that Sindhis work hard in a smart way.

Her biggest motivational force is to be a better version of herself each day. She tries to be more contributing for the wellbeing and upliftment of the space wherever she goes. To be productive and resourceful is the most important thing according to Jyoti.

In her free time, she enjoys watching movies, traveling, meditating and working on her spiritual development. She calls herself an eternal learner who loves to share her life lessons with those who seek her guidance. She says "I believe in living in the moment because there can be no perfect time or moment to start anything or to enjoy life" she further adds telling about her plans in life, "I have done better than what I have planned in life."

With lots of reverence and admiration for her community, she feels greatly esteemed to be a part of the present generation of Sindhi Community who is representing distinct nuances of its rich cultural traditions. "Don't be pressurized, just do your best, be collaborative and try to make the world a better place," is the message she wants to convey to the younger generation of Sindhi community.





# An Unmatched Music Prodigy

MOHIT LALWANI - Singer-Songwriter, Actor, Performer & Entrepreneur

Believe in yourself and do your karma, success will follow you automatically. Doing karma is in your hands, the result is not in your hands. - Lord Krishna



The lines from Bhagavad Gita fit very suggestively on the people of Sindhi community who after losing all they had, reshaped their destiny through their unwavering faith in god and self-belief. They have always strived to achieve excellence in all their pursuits and through their business innovations and creative minds have safeguarded their history and culture along with ensuring a bright future for themselves and their progeny. "Indian Idol made me immensely popular, particularly within my community I received lots of love and admiration as I was among the very few Sindhis who made it in the world of music."



Sindhi music is becoming very popular among the youth lately because of the upcoming talented singers. One such insanely popular singer is Mohit Lalwani who is remembered by all music lovers for his amazing performances in the Indian Idol 4 . He is also well known among the Sindhi masses for his singing, music production and songwriting. His music beautifully expresses his love for Sindhi culture. Mohit tells us delightedly, "Indian Idol made me immensely popular, particularly within my community I received lots of love and admiration as I was among the very few Sindhis who made it in the world of music. Soon I decided to sing in my mother tongue and make Sindhi music popular, globally. We decided to cater to the youth and started a new trend of Sindhi pop and rock music.

Very talented and renowned artist, Mohit was

born in New Delhi, India and showed his love for music since early years. He took his bachelor's degree in Hindustani classical music and took formal training from Ustad Aftab Ahmed Khan of Rampur gharana. Soon he started his own rock band named 'Rooh' and started getting a credible number of audience which boosted his confidence and made his family support him in the chosen field.

Mohit sees immense potential in his people and his community. He is convinced that Sindhis have made a good name for themselves wherever they go, they have added to business efficiency and have incorporated value to each and every business they take up, thereby making the economies robust of the countries they work in. Apart from business now as the young artists it is our responsibility to fulfill our vision of making Sindhi community a powerhouse of rich cultural output that has elements of both traditionalism and modernity, he adds. It is his strongest desire to leave an impact on the society that can undeniably contribute in confidence building and empowerment of his community.

He says with utmost fondness, "We Sindhis are scattered all around the different corners of the world. Whatever we have achieved it is because of our motherland Sindh and our mother tongue, Sindhi. It is our duty to preserve and respect our language and culture. We must all try to use Sindhi as a mode of communication.

After my grandmother's demise who used to talk to me in Sindhi language I lost my touch with it but my musical pursuits brought me back to my roots. We must all try to find our inspiration in our roots, it will never fail us." "My musical pursuits brought me back to my roots. We must all try to find our inspiration in our roots, it will never fail us."



Mohit feels that the Sindhi community has been blessed with extremely prodigious sons and daughters who lost it all at the time of partition but are now inspiring the world and are pragmatically committed to serve the society. Apart from building lucrative and competitive businesses, they take a lead in charitable activities and humanitarian causes. Sindhis always reserve a fraction of their income for serving the society, it is a part of their genetic makeup, he submits.

Professionally a very busy man, Mohit tries to steal some time for himself from his regular hustle and bustle. Apart from creating new ideas and new music, he loves to travel and spend time with his family and friends. Mohit is especially fond of cooking and is very well-versed in preparing amazingly delectable Sindhi dishes. With immense precision and dedication he prepares Sindhi delicacies like koki, aloo tuk, sai bhaji etc for his loved ones. Cooking gives him a lot of inner peace and satisfaction.

Mohit is blessed with a beautiful life partner who enjoys singing, not professionally though. She is a Company Secretary by profession. Mohit believes that he is in a continual process of learning new things in life which can never stop . He has brought and popularized Sindhi music through various platforms and epitomizes the fact that Sindhi music is capable of competing favorably with any other music from any other language. With all his accomplishments, Mohit has a long way to go.



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## Real talent is God Given

MOHIT SHEWANI- Stand Up Comedian/ Anchor /Actor

" "I was attracted towards performing arts and media since early childhood and participated in all such events that required anchoring and acting."



Being talented does not mean that you have expertise in some skills or art but it lies in your capability of being open to new ideas and learning. Such individuals exhibit a great degree of creativity, curiosity and team spirit. They are innately blessed with exemplary abilities. One such talented person is Mohit Shewani, a very popular and beloved Sindhi anchor, stand up comedian and entertainer. He is one of those blessed persons from his community who has made it until the top because of his sharp-wittedness, intelligence and good fortune. The best thing about Mohit is his complete dedication towards the cause of his community.



He is very deeply moved by the unforgettable contributions of his forefathers who came from Sindh and started their life from scratch, Mohit pays huge respect to the elders of his community, who despite innumerable hardships and struggles, steadfastly worked towards creating a respectable life for their future generations of which Mohit himself is apart of.

Mohit Shewani, commonly hailed as 'Kapil Sharma' of the Sindhi community comes from the beautiful city of Bhopal where he was born and brought up. He is a renowned artist in the Sindhi circle, internationally and has done several stand-up comedy shows, a Sindhi web series named Wedding Bells and is now all set for his acting debut on Hindi television. Speaking about himself, Mohit says, "I was attracted towards performing arts and media since early childhood and participated in all such events that required anchoring and acting.

Due to family pressure I studied engineering but at heart I always knew it is not what I am destined to do. I worked as a sales expert for big names in media in central India like Hindustan Times and Dainik Bhaskar.

But left my job to work as a full time stand up comedian in 2019. Respected Ram Jawhrani sir introduced me to Sindhi television in 2018 which was an ice breaking moment for me. Soon I went to Barcelona, Spain to perform at the World Sindhi Summit held by Satish Raisinghani which gave me a big time exposure. There has been no looking back ever since."

During the COVID pandemic, Mohit anchored a much appreciated programme named Live Aajkal in which he interviewed famous Sindhi personalities around the world. A very soft spoken, down to earth and inspiring young artist, Mohit tries to be highly active on social media and is connected with almost 16 lakh Sindhis across the world. I work as a content creator for the Sindhi community and I am the official anchor of Sindhi Doordarshan, he adds with utmost humility.



Mohit is blessed with a beautiful wife, Rishika Shewani who is a chartered accountant by profession and together they have a son named Devansh, Mohit owns a production house and has named it as Devansh Entertainment. In his free time he enjoys using his mobile phone, he submits candidly. A big time foodie, Mohit enjoys all kinds of cuisine but specially likes Sindhi kadhi and Punjabi chole bhature.

Mohit believes that the culture and heritage passed on by their illustrious ancestors is the most prized possession that Sindhi society has today and it is their duty to preserve their sacred traditions. Honesty and truth are the two tools with which we can move ahead and serve as a shining example of our excellence in each and every field, he says proudly. He wants all the Sindhis of the world to unite and stand together to safeguard the essence of Sindhism.

He says, "I personally believe that post partition times were extremely difficult for us as Sindhis, we were reduced to a landless group of people and there was a problem of acceptance by the rest of the people of India. Our beloved elders pioneered the struggles and readapted themselves to the new challenges. They broadened their perspectives of business growth and tried to follow a more friendly approach in order to get accepted in New India. Today we Sindhi people feel proud after listening to the struggles, challenges, the incredible success stories and unmatched endeavors of our noble elders."

most approachable, easy-going and problem solving people. The prodigious younger generation of Sindhis is inspiring the world with its pragmatic commitment towards community development and cultural preservation. He is very delighted to see the upcoming project 'The most iconic Sindhis of the world' and feels that the document will serve as a piece of history, a reference book for the future generations.

Mohit is convinced that the Sindhis are the

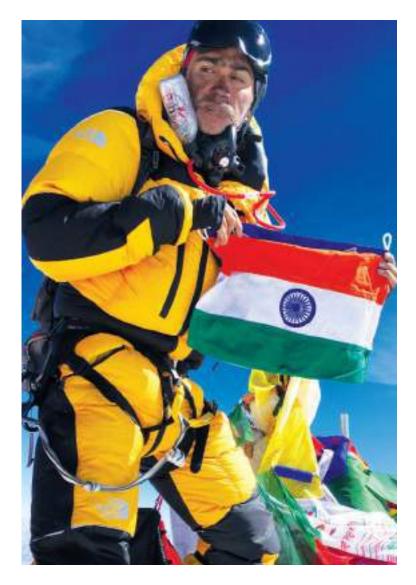




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## Taking it to the Mt. Everest

#### CAPTAIN SANDEEP MANSUKHANI - Commercial Pilot & Mount Everest Climber



Captain Sandeep Mansukhani was born to Lachman Chellaram and Rama Mansukhani in 1976 at Delhi. While studying he was always participated in sports, track events, winning laurels for his school. He followed his dream to become a pilot by completing his aviation training in New York and British Columbia. Sandeep also plays tabla and his sister Jaishree is a singer and they accompany their father in Gurbani Kirtan Yatras going around India and abroad. He started his career with Air Sahara and is currently working with one of the most reputed organizations, Jet Airways (India) Ltd., as a Sr. Commander and Line Training Captain.

He has been flying for the past 15 years and has logged in approximately 9000 hours of flight on Boeing 737 aircraft. He is blessed with a supportive wife and two children who live in Delhi, India. Sandeep has always been an outdoor person and has keen interest in mountaineering, motor sports and fitness challenges. He has done Basic and Advance Mountaineering courses from Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, where he was awarded the best trainee of the batch. He has also completed his mountaineering instructor course from Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi.

His summiting and trekking achievements include:

#### Peaks Climbed:

Mt. Everest (8848 m/ 29,029 ft)
Mt. Kun (7077 m/ 23,218 ft)
Lobuche East (6119 m/ 20,070 ft)
Stok Kangri (6153 m/ 20,182 ft)
Golep Kangri (5980 m/ 19,620 ft)
Renauk (5050 m/ 16,564 ft)
Kabru Dome (6600 m/21,648ft) attempted till Camp1

#### Treks:

Sandakphu Trek
Goechalaa Trek
Brighu
Lake Trek
Beas Kund Trek
Indrar Pass Trek
Triund Trek

Summiting Mt. Everest: Standing on the summit of Mt. Everest- roof of the world was a profound and humble experience. The journey which started in 2012, also had a near death experience on the morning of 25 April, 2015 due to an avalanche triggered by a massive earthquake. The aftershocks and the risk of continuing higher in the mountain led the government to cancel all expeditions. The four weeks spent acclimatizing to the altitude, cold and adverse conditions till then came to naught and they had to retreat in honour of nature's might. However, Sandeep was persistent and dedicated to achieve his goal. In 2018, he undertook his second attempt to reach the summit of Everest. Although the conditions were physically and mentally challenging, with the risk of death or hypothermia always there in the sub-zero temperatures, avalanche prone stretches, crevasses, blinding snow, oxygen depleted thin air and trekking during nights, Sandeep followed a grueling acclimatization routine for a few weeks between Base Camp and Summit. Their expedition finally th attempted the final climb on the night of 20 May 2018. At 7.48 am, Sandeep unfurled the Indian and Sindhi flag on Everest summit. The final steps to the pinnacle were very emotional, the experience beyond verbal expression. The sea of mountains surrounding him and the vastness was surreal.

It was a mixed bag of emotions as the journey had been full of challenges and learnings.





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\* Extreme Motorsports

Sandeep has participated in various Xtreme motor sports events. He has proven credentials of successfully finishing all in top quadrant as seen below: nd st • Overall 2 and 1 in our class: Mughal Rally Xtreme 2013 (Co-Driver) st st • Overall 1 and 1 in class: Sjoba Rally Xteme 2013 (CoDriver) nd st • Overall 2 and 1 in class: Raid De Himalaya Xtreme 2012 (Co-Driver) th st • Overall 4 and 1 in class: Mughal Rally Xtreme 2012 (Co-Driver) th st • Overall 15 : Sjoba Rally Xtreme 2012 (Driver) th th • Overall 12 and 4 in class: Desert Storm Xtreme 2011 (Driver) th th • Overall 12 an 4 in class: Raid De Himalaya Xtreme 2011(Driver)

- Overall 13 : Mughal Rally TSD 2010
- Overall 1st- Bishop Cotton School Rally TSD 2016
- Overall 1st- Bishop Cotton School Rally TSD 2017

\*Marathons, Cycling and keeping fit is a part of living for Sandeep, runs half, full and ultra marathons to challenge his body and mind. He likes to challenge himself further by cycling between cities for hundreds of kilometers. Some of his achievements are as follows: Marathons • Delhi Masters Athletics 5K (Gold) • Delhi Masters Athletics 1500m (Gold)
Trail A Thon Gurugram 56K • Delhi International Triathlon (Duathlon)
New Delhi Triathlon (Olympic) • Hyderabad Triathlon (Sprint)
Mumbai Marathon 42.2K • Airtel Delhi Half Marathon 21.1K
Gurugram Hinduatan Half Marathon 21.1K • Dwarka Hindustan Half Marathon 21.1K • Shimla Running and Living Marathon 25K • Run For Education 21.1K • Mild Runners Gurugram 21.1K • Chennai Marathon 10KCycling • Pinjore- Shimla- Hill Ride 92.5K • Delhi- Panipat- Delhi 200K • Delhi- Faridabad- Delhi 76K • Grand Delhi 99K

Sandeep Believes - "We should all have Everest in our lives. One needs to step out of their comfort zone and try to render impossible possible. Enjoying each moment of the journey while trying to achieve the Everest of our lives is necessary. Being physically fit, mentally prepared and spiritually aligned is a perfect recipe for overcoming hurdles and achieving what you



An extract from Dr Ram Jawhrani's book - Sindhyat & Youth



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# Out of the box Storyteller

#### SATRAMM RAMANI - Film Director



*That is what we storytellers do. We restore order with imagination. We instill hope again and again. - Walt Disney.* 

The art of drama is one of the most ancient kinds of performing arts practiced in the world and is found in some form in every society, modern or primitive. Initially it originated from simple storytelling and became a more complex and elaborate with the passage of time and was practiced continually in all the cultures across the world. As a form of art it serves as a means to display and pass on the shared values, philosophical questions and different ways of life. It is one of the oldest forms of conveying human history especially in the Indian subcontinent and there are talented individuals who inspire, motivate, educate and open the minds of the audience to various possibilities that life can offer. He has plans to tell the story of struggles, social, cultural and spiritual dilemmas faced by Sindhis through his film someday.



One such name is of exceptionally gifted and inspiring filmmaker, Satramm Ramani who has the honor of working with some leading names in the Indian film industry.

Satramm Ramani, son of a trader, belongs to a place called Jalgaon in Maharashtra. He is popularly known for his movies like Ready, Bodyguard, Helmet and most recently Double XL, where he worked as Assistant Director and Director, respectively.

Speaking about his earlier days, Satramm tells us, "We lived in Maharashtra and my father had an inclination towards theater and often took me to watch the performances. It developed a keenness in me regarding this form of art. Throughout my student life, I remained an average student but I did a lot of theater during my school and college days. When I decided to pursue my career in the showbiz industry, my family was hesitant but my passion made them support me. We Sindhis are business-minded people; we usually do not venture into art and aesthetics. I was lucky that my parents supported me. In addition, it was my good fortune that I connected with good people in the industry and did some really good cinema."

Satramm, a man filled with creativity, vigour

and a sense of self-identity brings hope to millions of youth especially the Sindhi youth to believe in themselves and whatever they aspire to pursue, to say loudly whatever their minds speak. He has plans to tell the story of struggles, social, cultural and spiritual dilemmas faced by Sindhis through his film someday. It will be a big emotional moment for me when I will make something from the Sindhi perspective, he says with an emotional undertone.

Virtues like soft-spokenness, humility and wisdom common to the people of Sindhi community are well found in Satramm when you meet him in person. *"I'm emotionally connected to the unforgettable contributions made by the forefathers of Sindhi community and they still inspire the young generation of Sindhis & lighten their paths from darkness".* 

Satramm tells us, "It is not easy to maintain peace in the mind when one is in creative business but my having a spiritual bent of mind helps me in situations when I feel stuck. My ardent faith in divine guidance and taking inspiration from the success stories of others keep me afloat.

"He calls himself a lifelong learner, he believes that it is very important to keep oneself informed and aware of the happenings around the world. Wisdom is something I seek for the entire lifetime, he adds.

Satramm is very well aware and emotionally connected to the unforgettable contributions made by the forefathers of Sindhi community and they still inspire the young generation of Sindhis and lighten their paths from darkness.

He considers their customs, traditions and language as their precious treasures handed down to them. In addition, feels that it is the responsibility of the youth to preserve their rich cultural legacy and create a glorious future that their ancestors always dreamt of. Satramm is very much in love with Sindhi cuisine and feels that a lot of it is still unexplored. He is blessed with a lovely family which comprises his wife Shruti, a professor in Media Studies and a one year old kid Dhairya.

Satram loves to travel, chisel his creative skills and spend time in deep introspection whenever he gets time for himself, it declutters him, he feels.

He anticipates that the project 'The most iconic Sindhis of the world' will be a piece of literature that will be treasured by generations of Sindhis and keep them inspiring for a very long time. It will promote their community and culture.









#### Dr. Joohi Qadri



A Note of Thanks.

Along the course of the Indus river the prehistoric forefathers of Sindhis dwelled and flourished. Sindh had been an important part of the breathtaking Indus Valley Civilization with Mohenjo-Daro as its prominent city where urban planning, technology and trade was at its highest peak.

'The Most Iconic Sindhis of the World' is a coffee table book that acknowledges and surveys the incredible success stories and participation of the Sindhi community in shaping up the present day world. Owing to the infamous partition of India, the majority of Hindu Sindhis faced one of the greatest migrations in human history. The book delves into the significant contributions made by illustrious sons and daughters of Sindh who despite being uprooted from their native place created a niche for themselves in their individual areas of expertise. These 'Icons' are working together to break the age-old stereotypes and generalizations about the community. The richly illustrated book brings forth a vivid picture of rich Sindhi cultural heritage. It will broaden the perspective of the readers about the true essence about what Sindh and Sindhiyat stands for.

As a part of this esteemed project, I would like to acknowledge the help of all the wonderful people involved, and more specifically, Mr. Vikas Bhargava for providing me guidance throughout the project, his dynamism, vision and sincerity kept me motivated.

I am grateful to the amazing 'Icons', who are living as examples and are empowering others through their greatness. Writing about them has been a learning experience of a lifetime.

My heartfelt wishes for your future endeavors. May peace and love fill your lives. Wish you good luck with the launch of this book.

Thanks Dr. Joohi Qadri

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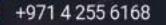


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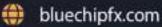
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Pankaj Lokwani Partner of La Capitale Real Estate, is an experienced business leader involved within Real Estate and Construction industry for over 14 years specializing in Capital gain Investments & residential real estate. Pankaj built a solid foundation of clients through his "product Cycle" strategy , In which he analyzes the entry & exit point for every property investment he offers.

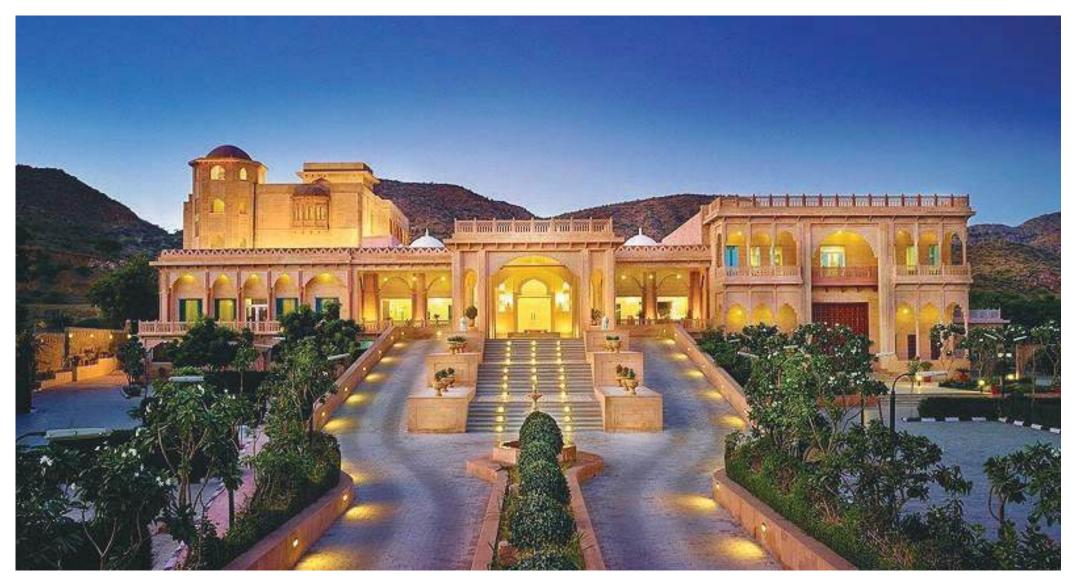
Mr Lokwani has a long record of successfully guiding national and international clients with their real estate acquisition, asset re-position and disposition. Pankaj Lokwani has personally closed primary sales transactions valued over 80 million consistently earning La Capitale the Platinum Agency award both in Nshama, Dubai Properties, EMAAR, Sobha & Damac. Pankaj has represented large number of investors & end users in a wide array of real estate transactions.

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