

VOL07 | MEN LEADERS TO LOOK UP TO IN 2024

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PASSION VISTA

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Feature Stories

MEN
LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

Becoming a true leader is a lifelong pursuit filled with dedication, hardships, and victory; these personalities inspire, motivate, and guide others with vision and integrity to achieve towering success.

K-Magic

A Step into the Beauty and Serenity of South Korea

Oud Obsession

Why is it becoming so famous?

Oceanic Opulence

The Best and the Most Luxurious Yachts

ADITYA VIKRAM BIRLA

Leading the Cosmic Birla Group to global prestige

ISSN 2583-7478



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WEN LEADERS TO LOOK UP TO IN 2024



**ADITYA VIKRAM
BIRLA**



**AHAMED
FAIZAL**



**ARUN KUMAR
RAMACHANDRAN
SUMANGALA DEVI**



**ARVIND KUMAR
RAGIPHANI**



**BHARATH BHUSHAN
SREERAVINDRA**



**BRONNER
DAVIS**



**DAVID
WERDIGER**



**DEVAKINANDAN
PANDA**



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**DR. FAHAD
ATTAR**



DR. P.S. DATTATREYA



**FAHAD
RIZVI**



**GAGANDEEP SINGH
CHAHAL**



**HEMAL
PATEL**



**JASWINDER
SINGH**



**JOHN
AKKARAKARAN JOSE**

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MESSAGE

From **Dr. GD Singh**, Editor In Chief



As the new year looms by, we dutifully rush to complete all our resolutions and tasks before the gong strikes on December 31. 2024 has been a mixed year at best.. not just for me but many others I've spoken to. From increasing costs and interest rates to manpower and other professional challenges, the year has trudged by in an air of global uncertainty.

However, that has not stopped my youthful and driven team from pushing the boundaries in every direction. From Passion Vista, powered by Unified Brainz Media, to Asian-African Chamber of Commerce & Industry (AACCI), we have extensively dabbled on the global stage and emerged triumphant across countries and continents. In the past 2 months itself, we launched 2 global editions; hosted the Asian-African Economic Forum in Bangkok, Thailand; and a High Level Diplomatic Meet Series VI in New Delhi, India.

As we now gear up for exciting times ahead, it is first and foremost time to look back on the year gone by, and be thankful for how far we have come. I thus take this opportunity to proudly present our special collector's edition - Men Leaders to look up to in 2024.

As a celebration of International Men's Day month, we unveiled the latest edition of this popular award title in the month of November. I seriously believe that becoming a true leader is a lifelong pursuit filled with dedication, hardships, and victory, and that all these personalities inspire, motivate, and guide others with vision and integrity to achieve towering success.

This is why they make the perfect half of the Class of '24. In a year rife with war and economic slowdown, these men of valour have marched ahead to transform the world for the better. Their ideas, innovations, and impact has had far reaching influence across the globe and helped millions achieve both professional and personal fulfillment.

Today, we congratulate them, and honour them, and feel proud to capture their journeys for posterity in the pages inside. A true treasure indeed!

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MESSAGE

From **Dr. Neetu Singh**, Managing Editor



...And I think
to myself
what a
wonderful
world!

For me personally, there are no editions more satisfying than our year-end award editions, which pick diamonds among stones, and help these luminaries spread their light around the world. This is just one such edition. At a time when diversity has taken centre stage, it feels opportune to acknowledge the contributions of heroic men, which often go unnoticed.

I'm therefore happy to present this eclectic collector's edition featuring Men Leaders of 2024. Hand-picked among thousands from all corners of the world, these stalwarts have made humanity proud with their staggering achievements in their respective fields. Sharp yet simple, they all make time to share their passion journeys with us.

If that's not enough, we also have a great line-up of luxury articles, touching upon some very unique topics. First up, there's 'Oud Obsession - Why is it becoming so famous?', and 'Oceanic Opulence - The Best and the Most Luxurious Yachts'. We also thought it was time to round up luxury travel with the 'Future of Luxury Travel - Latest Trends in High-End SUVs and Electric Vehicles'.

It is difficult to be a lifestyle magazine and discount the K-magic. We thus have a great feature in 'K-Magic - A Step into the Beauty and Serenity of South Korea', which will have you packing your bags in a jiffy.

Last but not the least, we round up the issue with 'Rest Assured! - The Best Sleep Hacks for Ultimate Wellness', for those who prioritize their pretty slumber. On that note, here's me wishing all our dear readers a Happy & Healthy 2025 from the Passion Vista family.

See you in the new year!



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PASSION VISTA

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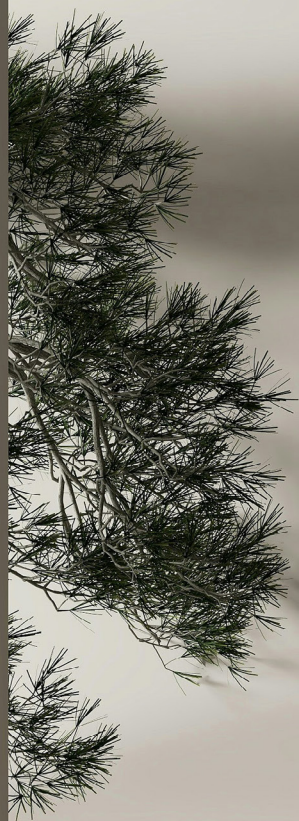
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The Best Sleep Hacks for Ultimate Wellness

A restful sleep has become harder to achieve than finding diamonds, and rightfully so since good sleep is the key to good health. Here are some sleep hacks that you can only dream about!





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THE BEST AND MOST LUXURIOUS YACHTS IN THE WORLD



Luxury yachts are the biggest symbol of opulence, as their presence in pristine blue waters marks a pure aquatic symphony. Here are some of the most luxurious yachts to sail the high waters.



1. History Supreme

This one surely makes history. With a jaw-dropping price tag of 4.8 billion dollars, this superyacht truly beats all others as it is the most expensive superyacht in the world. It is 100 feet long and made with 10,000 kilograms of pure gold and platinum. If that wasn't enough, it includes a master bedroom with a Tyrannosaurus Rex bone statue and, to top it off, a panoramic wall aquarium made with 24-carat gold.

2. Eclipse

Riding high on security, this yacht comes with some truly mind-blowing features. If being 536 feet long wasn't enough, it has a private defence system and bulletproof windows. Its most amazing feature surely has to be a vessel camera detector that prevents images from being taken on the yacht. Besides this, there are two swimming pools, a disco hall, and 24 guest bedrooms. Russian-Israeli billionaire Rowan Abramovich owns this yacht.



3. Streets of Monaco

As exquisite and charming as the name of this superyacht, its amenities are as outwardly charming as well. Though it has yet to be completed, once it is finished, it will be a mini version of Monaco, one of the most coveted cities in the world. Of course, it has to house casinos, tennis courts, and even a go-kart track. It will also have a replica of the Monaco Grand Prix track and a miniature waterfall.

4. Azzam

Costing over 600 million dollars, this masterpiece is the creation of the German shipyard Lürssen and measures 590 feet, making it the largest private yacht in the world. Its distinctive feature is that it has bulletproof windows and the master bedroom that has its own missile defence system. In terms of its power on water, its vessel is powered by two gas turbines and two diesel engines.



LUXURY

5. Koru

Owned by one of the richest people on earth, Jeff Bezos, the billionaire owner of Amazon, this superyacht was built in the Netherlands by Oceanco. This massive creation has an even more massive mast, which has three towering masts of over 70m. This yacht can accommodate around 18 guests and 36 crew members. Besides this, it is powered by 2 MTU engines with top speeds reaching 20 kn.



6. Topaz

Owned by Abu Dhabi tycoon Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, this beauty literally resembles a floating palace, which is 482 feet long. Equipped fully with a helicopter pad, a swimming pool, a conference room, a gymnasium, and a cinema hall, to name a few. It is manufactured by giants Lurssen Yachts Yacht and can accommodate up to 52 guests in 26 extravagant staterooms.



7. Motor Yacht A

Built by shipmakers Blohm + Voss, this yacht is one of the largest private yachts in the world and was designed by renowned yacht designer Phillipe Starck. Its speciality lies in the fact that it blends with the sea with a very long mouth. To top it off, it has a 2,500-square-foot master bedroom and swimming pool with a glass bottom, which makes it great to explore the sea below in the comfort of this superyacht.

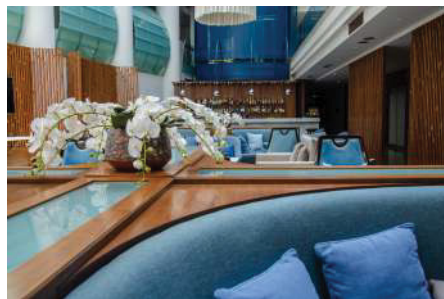
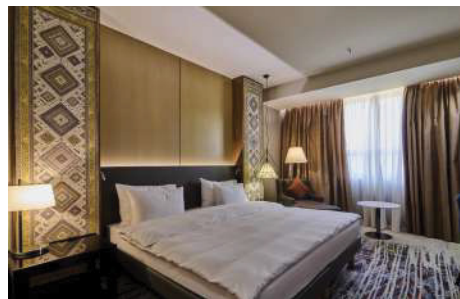
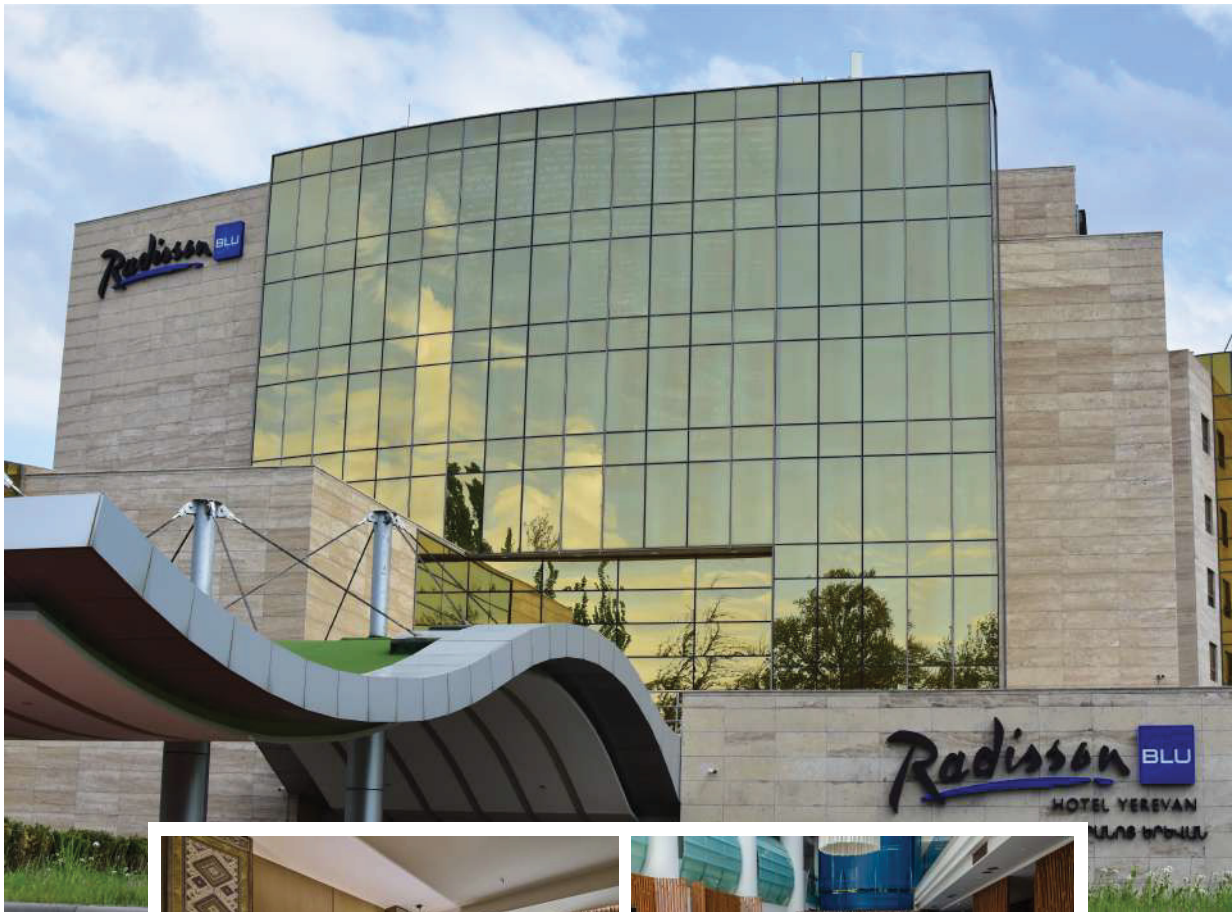


8. Dubai

Owned by the current ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, with a price tag of a whopping 350 million dollars, this dream cruise is fully equipped with a jacuzzi, helipad and a humongous dining room that can easily accommodate 90 guests. The swimming pool, on the other hand, can hold around 115 people. Besides this, there are many activities to enjoy, like the squash court, cinema hall and disco hall. If that is not all, it also has a submarine to dive into the trenches of the waters.



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MEN
LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

ADITYA VIKRAM BIRLA

Leading the Cosmic Birla Group to global prestige

Scion to the legacy of the reputed Cosmic Birla Group, the young and enigmatic Aditya Vikram Birla proved his mettle by joining the family business at the age of 22 and charting a trail of innovation and excellence. Today, as Chairman cum Managing Director of the Group, Aditya is on the cusp of global renown.

Born and raised in Kolkata where the group is based, Aditya is the 3rd generation leader from the family of Late RS Birla, a luminary whose contributions have left an indelible mark on the realms of business and society. His grandfather's career spanned a few decades, during which he graced the highest offices of the GD Birla Group. In



1975, driven by an insatiable entrepreneurial spirit and a shared vision for pioneering change, RS Birla joined hands with Deo Kishan Mohta to establish the Cosmic Birla Group. Following his footsteps, his son and Aditya's father, Ravi Kumar Birla, played a crucial role as Promoter Director, overseeing the establishment of the Ferry Alloy plant in 2005.

"The perseverance and dedication of my predecessors have played a significant role in shaping my entrepreneurial journey. I am able to lead this Group today thanks to the foundation laid by them," says Aditya with pride.

Armed with a BBA from Jadavpur University and an

MBA from Cardiff University, Aditya joined the business at a turbulent time. At that time, the crown jewel of the Group was Cosmic Ferro Alloys Ltd which went into liquidation in 2017-18. Since then, it has been a journey of hardwork and perseverance to take the Group to where it stands today.

With key strengths of focus and relentlessness, Aditya was able to plan strategically and optimize resources effectively. He firmly built a robust management team (through incentivisation) with a shared vision. His sharp acumen and foresight soon led to a turnaround.

Today, the Cosmic Birla conglomerate comprises 20 companies dealing in a wide spectrum of industries such as steel manufacturing, engineering products for railways and infrastructure, EV two wheelers, FMCG, and real estate.

Their flagship entity Cosmic CRF Ltd got listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange in June 2023 and has been a multi-bagger since. It was also bestowed with the 'Best Performing Company in the MSME Sector' award on 1st November 2024 (Mahurat Trading Day). The Group recently reached a manufacturing strength of 1,00,000 metric tonnes of engineered products. Yet another highlight is the introduction of Cosmic EV Ltd, reflecting Aditya's result oriented leadership and commitment to sustainability.

Describing his leadership style, he says, "Leadership

according to me is a mix of ambition and strategy. A true leader will always strive for more and create a roadmap for execution. Apart from my effort to lead my Group effectively, I also aim to create leaders within my system so that there is a sense of work ownership and onus."

Aditya enjoys his work so much that he clocks an average of 16 hours a day. For him, it's equivalent to a kid enjoying playing cricket in the field! "A lot of my recreation not only involves my immediate family like my parents, wife and son, but also my top management and key resources. The 5,000 people that we employ form my family and I am very conscious of the fact that the growth and well-being of their individual families depends on how efficiently I can steer the growth of the Group."

This rare mix of business acumen and empathy defines Aditya's ascend in the industry. He was recently invited to the 'India Conference at Harvard 2024' at Harvard Business School for a fireside chat on 'Transforming a Legacy Business into an Innovative Powerhouse' with other prominent dignitaries. Personally and as a Group, they have been felicitated with multiple awards and accolades like Times Business Awards, East 2024, Emerging Business Conglomerate at Viksit Bharat 2047 awards by Bharat 24, Youth Icon of the Year 2024 by Asia One Magazine, and so on. Most recently, he was featured in Entrepreneurs Today's prestigious '40 under 40' list for the year 2024.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Aditya feels goals can tend to be indefinite in nature and thus he sets time bound benchmarks, achieving them through a strategic plan and then moving on to the next. He tells us that Cosmic Birla Group plans to achieve a total

revenue of Rs 5,000 crores by the year 2028 and make fresh investments to the tune of Rs 1,000 crores by the year 2027 towards new infrastructure and upgradation of existing infrastructure for state-of-art manufacturing facilities across all sectors and entities.

Revealing how one can achieve their goals, he suggests, "Put in those extra hours at work till you can. There is no substitute to hard work and once you get used to achieving your targets, it becomes a habit."



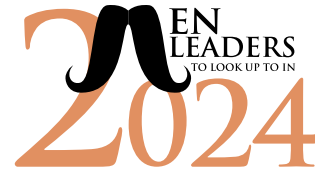


Born in a remote location in Southern India, the dynamic Ahamed Faizal showed remarkable grit to emerge as a Cross-cultural Leader in Project Management across countries and industries. With 14+ years of experience in Oil & Gas, Energy, Minerals, Technical Service, and Manufacturing, Ahamed is renowned for his expertise in creating and managing Manufacturing Facilities (Offshore Jackets, Topsides, PAR/PAU Modules, Piping Spools), creating business strategies and New Product Line Development, right from development to delivery.

Today, he is an Aramco-approved Project Manager at Saipem Taqa Al-Rushaid Fabricators Co Ltd, Saudi

Arabia and is responsible for the fabrication management of multiple subsea and fixed offshore facility projects for Saudi Aramco LTA contracts; handling P&L responsibility, customer relationships, and HSSE and quality compliance.

This is a huge feat for Ahamed, the first graduate in his family. "I often joke that I didn't choose any profession as my career; it somehow found me. My destiny took a turn in grade 11, when I was handpicked for IIT-JEE preparation by a mentor. From then on, I was fascinated by Physics and graduated in Mechanical Engineering from Anna University, Chennai. I also obtained multiple certifications and credentials, including PMI-RMP, Chartered Engineer,



AHAMED FAIZAL

Cross-cultural leader in project management

and the recent Senior Management Program from IIM-Kozhikode."

Ahamed began his career as a Trainee Engineer in Larsen & Toubro Ltd. After working as a Production Engineer for a few projects, he moved to Production Planning and took on extra work for a role in Project Planning as well. This helped him move to estimations and new customer handling, thereby stepping into business development. Soon, he found himself

selected as an Executive Assistant to the Business Unit Head.

His tenure as an Executive Assistant gave him a good experience in understanding business dynamics, decision making, ensuring profitability, capex & open budgeting, operations management, etc. He took the opportunity to get associated in his first international project with M/s. Kuwait Oil Company and based on his performance, the client selected him to



head the effort. The successful completion of this new product line opened many more fronts for the facility from various customers.

In 2018, Ahamed was headhunted to lead the overall logistics operation for Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project. The very next year in 2019, L&T mobilized him back to establish a fabrication facility in Saudi Arabia as part of its IKTVA commitment to Saudi Aramco. Despite the COVID pandemic challenges, Ahamed conceptualized and developed a Fabrication facility (150,000 Sqm) for piping spools, onshore & offshore modules. The facility started producing and he also ensured a strong order book for 3 years with a clear business model for both operational and financial success.

In 2023, Ahamed joined Saipem, having emerged as a key leader in the region. His sound knowledge and hands-on experience to handle multiple roles in EPCIC value chain with clear focus on delivery and profitability set him apart from the competition. "People close to me often point out that project management suits me well. Maybe it's because I tend to be a bit bossy, always wanting to plan every detail and monitor progress meticulously. This trait isn't limited to my professional life; even my vacation needs to be carefully planned. I can't help but feel uneasy when I have to go with the flow instead of having a structured plan".

Ahamed's top achievements includes

- handling India's Largest Logistics Contract for Nuclear Power Corporation of India and
- Consistently being lauded as 'Outstanding Performer' across companies. Ahamed also is known for
- for training and grooming young Saudi nationals for handling various key project roles.

Ahamed's leadership style is collaborative without any differentiation in team hierarchy. "I strongly believe in developing people for my role rather than being protective about my own position," he reveals.

A self-contented person, Ahamed maintains a clear demarcation between personal and professional timing. He believes that working overtime is related to inefficiency and encourages his team to have their dedicated personal time. He says setting priorities and arriving at a conclusive reply is how one can balance the challenges.

Something Ahamed himself discovered during the pandemic. "My time management now is very different to pre-Covid days. I take an hour off every evening to go for a jog, unwind, and visualize my future self. The rest of the time, especially weekends, is dedicated to

family. My hobby includes reading books, mostly nonfiction and related to biographies, science, and history."

For young professionals aspiring towards leadership, Ahamed advises thinking big with a clear vision. "Have a big-picture mindset and think beyond the current status quo. Stay ahead of the curve through lifelong learning. I make a conscious effort to stay curious about the world, constantly seeking to understand how things work and why. I expose myself to different people, opinions, and business models to get inspiration and broaden my perspective."

Getting ready for another year of projects, team meetings, and the inevitable challenges, Ahamed is armed with years' worth of experiences and a lot of gratitude.





ARUN KUMAR RAMACHANDRAN SUMANGALA DEVI

Global Disruptor in Artificial Intelligence



Arun Kumar Ramachandran Sumangala Devi has achieved the extraordinary feat of emerging as an award-winning Global Leader in the artificial intelligence area, having implemented many successful solutions in the Healthcare Industry. In 2024, he was recognized with the prestigious “Fortune Leadership Awards for Best Technical Implementation for AI Award” and “Global Recognition Award for Artificial Intelligence” among a roster of awards bestowed to him.

With over 18 years of experience as a Test Architect and Healthcare Leader, he is currently an Architect II—software Testing at UST Global Inc. He also served as a Strategic AI Advisory Board member for Ashland University. He was also invited to join the Editorial Board Members and Reviewers of esteemed journals related to artificial intelligence, science, and technology. He was part of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Recent Trends in Computer Science and Engineering (JRTCSE) along

with Global Research and Development Journals (GRD Journals).

Through his tremendous experience in this domain, he has authored two books on artificial intelligence, namely, ‘Building Smarter Data Systems Leveraging Generative AI and Deep Learning’ and ‘Transforming Data Pipelines with Generative AI and Deep Learning.’ He says, “These books serve as a valuable resource for younger generations and AI enthusiasts, offering insights derived from my extensive industry experience and knowledge.” Arun has dedicated his time to advancing the scope of AI and has since made significant contributions to its long-lasting impact on society. He also played a key role in guiding the responsible use of AI in education and research.

Through his insightful work on Artificial Intelligence, he has earned IEEE, BCS, IET, and ACM memberships, an invitation as a reviewer to the International Conference on Data, Computation, and Communication (ICDCC) 2024, and participation in distinguished Judging panels



for the Claro Awards for Technology, Globee Awards, and many other conferences. In addition, his published papers can be read on Google Scholar and Academia.

When it comes to giving insight into his thought process, Arun says, “Each challenge has been a learning opportunity, reinforcing the importance of adaptability and continuous improvement. These experiences have not only honed my technical skills but also deepened my commitment to driving positive change and inspiring others in the tech community.”

A veritable thought leader in Global DigiTech, Arun believes in the transformative power of technology and the necessity of ethical innovation. “It’s vital to remain curious, continuously learn, and adapt in this rapidly evolving field. Let’s strive to build a tech community that fosters growth, collaboration, and positive change, ensuring we harness technology’s full potential for the greater good and drive impactful progress.

By balancing innovation with accountability, we secure a future where technology benefits all.” he says.

He also had to sail through some choppy waters as he faced numerous challenges like staying abreast of rapid technological advancements, and balancing innovation with security. Though he navigated through them with utmost ease and careful consideration. He is also a firm believer in the power of hard work over luck. He mentions, “Consistent effort, continuous learning, and resilience, are the true drivers of success. My own journey underscores the importance of perseverance and a proactive approach to overcoming obstacles and achieving excellence.”

Arun has also played a pivotal role in implementing AI-powered application programming interfaces (APIS) into interoperability systems throughout the U.S. Health data which is currently scattered across 2,000 isolated datasets without a centralized platform or

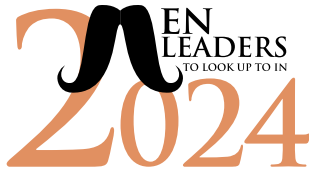
standardized guidelines for accessing or exchanging data. This leads to fragmentation and inconsistency in the healthcare industry, which can compromise patient care.

He subsequently developed APIs that conform to the FHIR standard and enable virtual consultations, remote monitoring, and secure access to patient records at nationwide Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. His work with the

FHIR standard has led to data sharing and interoperability advancements. One of the most notable examples is the Patient Access API, an interface that works with health plans to direct all patient data to a public application. Another significant contribution that is credited to him is developing a remote monitoring system that collects vital data from hospitalized patients and allows physicians and patients to interact through a virtual dashboard.

He shares a message for younger generation and says, “Our younger generations should believe in themselves, step beyond their comfort zones and set their sights high, embracing challenges as opportunities for growth and achievement. Dare to dream big, pursue your passions with determination. By pushing your boundaries and embracing challenges, you pave the way for innovation and create a legacy of empowerment for those who follow.”





ARVIND KUMAR RAGIPHANI

Foresighted, Faceted, and Fearless

One of the foremost leaders in the information technology industry, Arvind Kumar Ragiphani, has over 15 years of experience in multiple industries, with the past 9 years focusing on finance and banking. He has been deeply involved in architecting applications, collaborating across teams and organizations, and leading technical discussions and development efforts. He has

been bestowed with several awards, including the Judge Globee Awards for Technology and the Best Performer Award for 2017 from the Division Chief at IMF.

Arvind started his career over 16 years ago with a passion for technology in his heart and armed with a strong engineering base. After earning a Bachelor's in Electronics and Communication Engineering



from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University in India, he pursued a Master's in Information Technology from the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), India.

His first stint was at a startup, INENT Software Services, where he learned cloud technologies and implemented customer-centric platform solutions that greatly improved user interaction. This experience sparked his interest in developing end-to-end applications that create impactful user experiences.

After gaining experience as a cloud software engineer at Intalio Inc., he wanted to make

a bigger impact by working on enterprise-level projects. This led him to the U.S., where he earned a Master's in Computer Science and Management Information Systems from Bradley University, IL. After honing his skills with a second Master's degree, he transitioned to working on enterprise applications that reach millions of users. At NextRow Inc., he led projects that improved customer engagement and financial outcomes.

Subsequently, he joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF), leading a team of 20 members in redesigning and migrating a major project. This resulted in millions of dollars

in savings and increased project stability through content optimization. This role sharpened his leadership skills and deepened his Enterprise Content Management technology expertise. His technical skill set includes Java, C++, J2EE, Spring, Sling, Python, JavaScript, React, CI/CD tools, Azure, AWS, and Adobe Experience Cloud.

Currently, as an ISD Cloud Developer IV at Navy Federal Credit Union, he leads transformative projects in the banking industry. He says, "My focus on operational excellence and collaboration has led to innovative solutions that boost user engagement and support significant revenue goals. Throughout my career, I've strongly emphasized mentoring and promoting a culture of excellence within my teams. I ensure that knowledge sharing is a top priority so everyone can grow and succeed."

While balancing work and personal life can be challenging most of the time, he handles this by effectively managing his time and prioritizing his tasks, which he feels are the key to success. He says, "Delegating or postponing less urgent tasks can prevent burnout, but it's essential to consider how this might also affect personal life. My flexible work schedule allows me to handle some responsibilities during off-peak hours, ensuring I can be available for my family when they need me most."

Arvind's leadership is visionary and empowering, and he focuses on setting a

clear long-term vision while encouraging team members to take ownership of their work. He says, "My leadership approach, dedication to driving meaningful change, and commitment to creating an inclusive and innovative work environment position me as a role model for future

tech leaders. I am committed to inspiring others and driving positive change within the tech industry."

When it comes to personal time, he limits work emails and calls outside of business hours to minimize work stress and prioritize his personal life.

He thinks personal time is essential for anyone's mental and emotional well-being. He also likes to spend quality time with his family and kids, and he occasionally hangs out with friends who help him recharge and keep him up to date while maintaining that balance.

He shares a message with our readers: "Growth is a continuous journey; neither it has a finish line nor a dead end. Real learning happens when you step out of your comfort zone. Think of learning to ride a bike or swim—it's uncomfortable at first, but pushing through that discomfort shapes us to prepare for the next level. The lessons you gain early on become the foundation for your Growth. Collaboration with others is crucial, as hearing different viewpoints makes us stronger and sparks new ideas. Lead with empathy by understanding others' experiences and building a supportive environment. Prioritize your well-being by finding time for what brings you joy, and stay true to your values because they build trust. Every step forward shapes your Growth and your positive impact on others."





BHARATH BHUSHAN SREERAVINDRA

The Dreamer Who Built Silicon Valley Success



Bharath began his professional journey in 2011 as a software engineer at a telecommunications startup in Richmond, Virginia. It was here that he honed his technical skills and gained insights into the tech industry. His career took a pivotal turn in 2014 when he joined Capital One, a decision that would shape the next decade of his life.

“Capital One was where I truly discovered the potential of technology to transform industries,” Bharath says. Starting as a Senior Software Engineer, he embraced

challenges with unrelenting determination, rising to Senior Software Engineering Manager. In 2017, Bharath relocated to the Bay Area, immersing himself in Silicon Valley’s dynamic innovation ecosystem. “It’s a place that challenges you to think bigger, move faster, and constantly evolve,” he notes.

At Capital One, Bharath led groundbreaking projects, authored patents, and published journals in cybersecurity. His expertise in data security and governance earned him accolades like the 2024 Stevie® Award for

What sparks greatness? For Bharath Bhushan Sreeravindra, it was ambition, curiosity, and a vision beyond imagination. His journey began with a simple yet profound question: “What can I do today that creates a lasting impact tomorrow?” From dreaming in Mysuru to leading teams in Silicon Valley, Bharath proves success is built with determination, grit, and purpose.

“I always knew I wanted to do something that mattered, something that created impact,” Bharath reflects. His journey began in Mysuru,

Karnataka, where his maternal uncle became his earliest mentor, planting the seed of ambition in a young mind. “He encouraged me to pursue software engineering and dream of studying in the United States,” he recalls. Armed with this vision, Bharath completed his bachelor’s degree in India before taking the bold leap to pursue a master’s degree in Computer Science at North Carolina State University in 2009. “It was a transformative period—challenging yet exciting,” he says.

Rising Through the Ranks of Technology
After earning his degree,



Technology Excellence and the Globe® Awards for Technology. As a judge for events such as the Globe® Awards and the Technology Student Association National Conference, he evaluates and celebrates the innovations shaping the future.

Leadership with Empathy and Vision

For Bharath, leadership goes beyond results. “Leadership is the ability to guide, support, and uplift,” he shares. His empathetic approach has helped him build high-performing teams and foster a culture of innovation and inclusivity. “I believe in mentoring the next generation of talent, giving them the tools and confidence to excel.”

His strength lies in anticipating challenges and crafting sustainable, impactful solutions. “I focus on driving creativity while aligning technology with long-term business goals,” he says. Yet, Bharath remains humble, seeking constant improvement. “Encouraging my team to file patents and contribute to intellectual property is an area I’m working on,” he admits.

Beyond Work: A Commitment to Community and Self

While Bharath’s professional achievements are impressive, his commitment to giving back is equally inspiring. As a volunteer with ASHA for Education, he supports education for underprivileged children in India. Through the Association of Kannada Kootas of America (AKKA), he helps preserve Kannada culture in North America. “These causes are close to my heart,” he says. “Giving back isn’t just a responsibility; it’s a privilege.”

Bharath’s personal life balances endurance and joy. As a triathlete, he has conquered challenges like the Ironman Santa Cruz 70.3 and the Bridge to Bridge 10K swim, feats requiring physical and mental resilience. “These events push me beyond my limits and teach me perseverance,” he says.

His greatest joy, however, comes from spending time with his two-year-old daughter. “She brings pure happiness into my life,” he shares. Bharath also enjoys anime, manga, and mindfulness practices like meditation. “It’s about finding small moments to recharge and stay grounded,” he explains.

Inspired by Family, Driven by Values

Bharath credits his family for laying the foundation of his success. His parents’ sacrifices, his sister’s encouragement, and his wife’s inspiring ability to balance work and life have all shaped him. “She reminds me of what truly matters and inspires me to cherish every moment,” he says.

Looking Ahead: A Vision for the Future

Reflecting on his journey, Bharath remains focused on harmonizing professional success with personal growth. “My goal is to foster innovation, mentor emerging talent, and align technological advancements with organizational goals,” he says.

To aspiring leaders, Bharath offers this advice: “Success is a journey shaped by hard work, continuous learning, and a commitment to making a positive impact. Embrace challenges, give back to your community, and always strive to be the best version of yourself.”



A Legacy of Inspiration
Bharath Bhushan Sreeravindra’s story isn’t just about professional success—it’s about resilience, purpose, and community. Whether leading transformative projects, mentoring young talent, or conquering endurance challenges, Bharath exemplifies what it means to lead with heart and vision. His journey inspires us to dream big, work hard, and create a lasting impact in our world.

MEN LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

BRONNER DAVIS

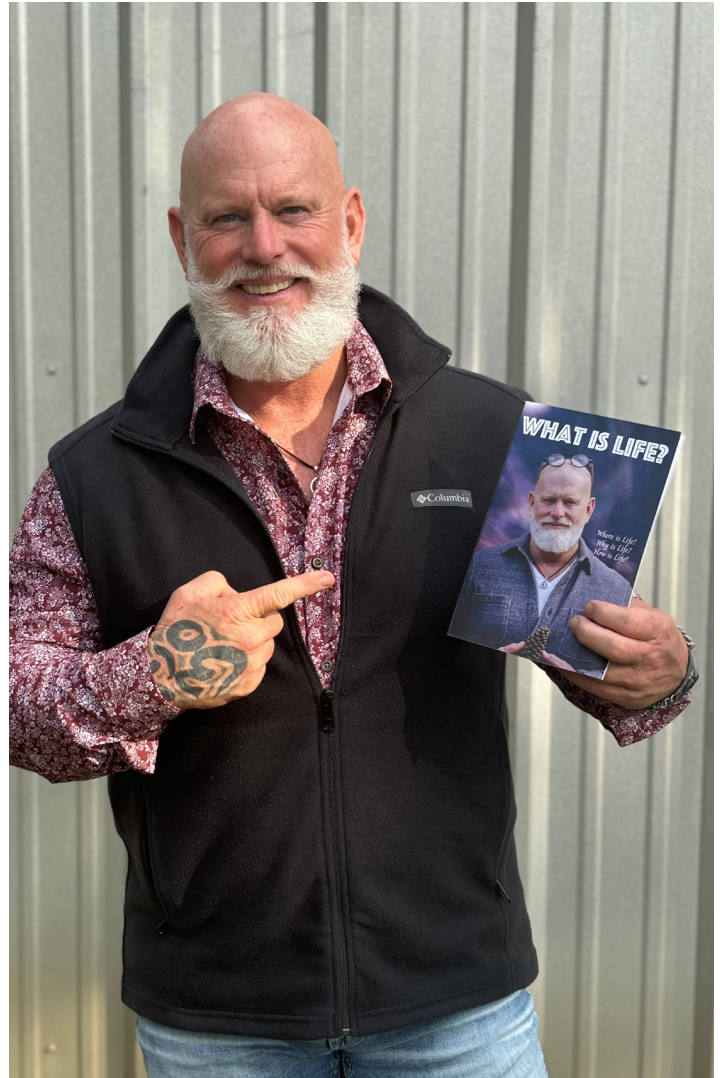
aka The American Mystic

An Entrepreneur, Coach, Motivational Speaker, Author, and Model - the enigmatic Bronner Davis wears many hats with panache. However, the one that truly defines his soul is that of 'The American Mystic'.

Founder of Bronner Enterprises Limited, Davis helps others who are seeking internal peace and harmony with the existence to realize their true nature of unlimited

potential. He is also the Founder of B LINQ- A NEW ERA, which is breaking barriers in rural internet connectivity.

"I'm a walking example of how human beings are sentient beings with unlimited potential. I have spent more than a decade on deep internal work within myself to heal my body, emotions, mind, and life energies. No matter who you are or what are your circumstances, you



have the power within you to rise above and change your circumstances in whatever way you choose to."

Born in Wyoming, USA in an abusive home with a single mother, Bronner grew up between the ranch in WY and Salt Lake City, UT. When he turned 25, he started his first company in landscaping, followed by excavation

and communications. He spent over 3 decades in telecommunications and built over 30 companies in various capacities from consulting and design firms to antennas and lines companies. He designed and built distributed antenna systems for all the major carriers - NFL, MLB, NHL stadiums, Walt Disney.

In 2014, he designed and built the world's largest wifi network for entertainment at EDC Las Vegas. This propelled him into rural economic development in California with the USDA where he

worked with Fresno City as the only private stakeholder to win the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge. He spent the next decade in the Central Valley of California with farmers and designed his initial rural internet kit. From there he designed a tower system and mesh network especially for farming and agriculture. Today, he has formed new companies and partnered with friends in robotics and AI to launch the latest version of his real network in 2025.

Few of his other achievements in the field include:

- Part of CA Economic Summit and SMART Infrastructure Action Team.
- Private business partner with San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium - Consultant for the California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- Published an economic development plan for the state of Mississippi with Senator Tammy Witherspoon.
- Established US ACRES, the Agriculture Communications and Rural Enrichment Services advocacy coalition.

Bronner achieved great heights by the age of 30, but chronic pain and fatigue began to shut down his body by 35. By the time he touched 40, his body was a shell of what he had been. He went from 275 lbs of muscle to a dying man in a small mountain cabin. A series of coincidences saw him wake up in an ambulance and receive God's message -

'The answers you seek are in life, not death'. This helped him return with a different perspective and the belief that he could heal himself and return to a far more fulfilled life.

As serendipity would have it, he also discovered Sadhguru at this time. "My guru showed me that I AM THE LIGHT and the darkness; I get to choose how to be. A man I have never met has had the biggest impact on my life. Only he could explain through his videos what was happening to me.

Because it happened to him as well, long before me. Through my spiritual awakening and transformation process I changed everything about me."

After more than a decade of inner work, meditation, kriya yoga, sadhana and solitude in the mountains, Bronner has emerged back into the society with a new mission and purpose. He has chronicled this journey in his book - 'What is Life?'.

Now based in Lumberton, Texas, he works with people

one-on-one for their personal and spiritual growth, enabling them to reach their highest potential and live a life of joy, purpose, and fulfillment.

Knowing himself allows Bronner to be still and silent within, yet always alert and always just how he wants to be. When he wants to escape, he goes as high as he can up the closest mountains. He keeps his circle small and intimate, but enjoys playing with kids and going on long drives with good music.

Ask him about balance and he is quick to say that there is no such thing as this life or that life... there is simply this one life. And so you must choose to focus on things you absolutely enjoy doing. "YOU are the most important person in your life. Be kind to yourself. Be loving to yourself. Learn about yourself. Give you the very best of you, always. Because life happens through you. Not to you. You are life itself."





David Werdiger embodies the true Renaissance man, aka, a gentleman proficient in a wide range of fields. Based in Australia, David is a globally sought after Family Enterprise Advisor, Tech Entrepreneur, Author, and Speaker. A Thought Leader through the decades, he ascribes his success to the power of creation.

“I love creating. In my tech entrepreneur period, that meant taking an idea from zero to a small business. Now it’s mostly around developing ideas and writing/speaking about them. I especially love taking an idea from one context and adapting

it to something completely different, and challenging sacred cows. I’m always analysing business models I encounter, be it personally or professionally.”

Residing in Melbourne, David grew up as the youngest of 5 children in a business family. His first job was for a stockbroker as a software developer and then a quant analyst. Then he started a software business that turned into a telco and SaaS billing business.

Thereon, he started two other telco businesses and partnered in two others. He also joined some non-profit boards, and ended up doing a

MEN LEADERS TO LOOK UP TO IN 2024

DAVID WERDIGER A Renaissance Man

Masters of Entrepreneurship & Innovation. At some point, doing all this caught up with him health-wise, which had him thinking about what he wanted to do with his life.

That brought him to his third career. During his journey, David learnt a lot about what other wealthy families were doing – succession, governance, and wealth transition. His tech business was already mature and didn’t require a lot of his time. And so he decided to write a book

- the bestselling ‘Transition’, and became a certified advisor to families – helping them on their intergenerational journey.

Today, David is an award-winning global leader in family enterprise. He advises UHNW families and family offices on intergenerational issues, succession planning, family governance, and conflict management. His wisdom, achieved through decades of hands-on experience, has helped him connect, innovate, and solve complex issues with ease.



Among his many engagements, David is a Managing Director at Nathanson Pearson Family



Advisory; Chairman & Chief Evangelist at Billing Bureau; Executive Coach at Asian Leadership International Executive Coaching; and Leaders Council Member and part of the faculty for Family Dynamics domain at The UHNW Institute – a global think tank of practitioners servicing ultra-high-net-worth families.

A mentor to hundreds, he is also on the expert panel at Simple and Respada; Guest Lecturer at Harvard Business School; and has several roles at his prestigious alma mater, Swinburne University.

A professional Speaker and MC for over 2 decades, he speaks to high net wealth groups in Australia, Asia, and around the world. With over 400 articles to his name, he is currently working on his 2nd book, which is about the challenges of the modern, always-connected digital world.

For David however, his greatest achievement is his family – his wife and him have five children, three of whom are married, with five grandchildren. “I’m so proud of each one of them, and grateful to my wife for raising them so well while I was out there building businesses,” he shares with pride.

A humanitarian at heart, David is an active participant in community activities as well as non-profits. He is currently Vice-President of The Joint Australia (part of JDC) – the world’s leading Jewish humanitarian organisation, and President of JBD – Jews

of Melbourne CBD. He was previously Director and Committee Member at Jewish Care for over twenty years; Founding Director of Australian Jewish Funders; and Director of Lamdeni School.

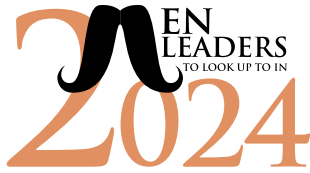
“I’m not really one for awards, but I’m very proud of the contributions I made to these organisations, and grateful for the opportunity and the learnings they gave me,” he says.

For a man who wears many hats, how does David face simultaneous challenges? He says he has no idea! “People say if you want something done, ask a busy person. I’m not really capable of doing just one thing: I’m always juggling multiple roles. They are businesses, non-profits, writing, and more. I have learned to look after myself – that is very important. I have a fairly high work rate when I get into the ‘zone’. I thus live by my calendar – everything needs to be in there otherwise it will slip through the cracks.”

David’s biggest strength is that he can rapidly switch between several different activities, and get much done. What about his passion, we ask him? Telling us how his passion centres around good governance, he answers, “I’ve seen it done well and done very badly in both non-profits and families, and seen the consequences of each. Spiderman’s uncle famously said: ‘With great power comes great responsibility’. Good governance comes down to the responsible use of power, and that applies in everything from families to businesses, non-profits, and countries.”



David places a high premium on human agency. Leaving us with some food for thought, he says, “Always be learning; never underestimate the power of people (especially yourself) to change. Value your time; maintain a healthy balance between work and personal life. No-one ever lay on their deathbed and said, ‘if only I’d worked a little harder...’.”



DEVAKINANDAN PANDA

Pushing the boundaries of global technology

With over 14 years of experience, the young and spirited Devakinandan Panda has consistently pushed the boundaries of technology with groundbreaking projects at Amazon Fulfillment, Amazon Last Mile, and Roblox. Dedicated to innovation, leadership, and delivering impactful results, he's passionate about sharing his knowledge with others and committed to the success of the teams he works with.

Devakinandan's passion lies in using technology to solve complex challenges and improving people's lives. "I'm drawn to industries where there is a real problem to solve and technology can create a real impact rather than pure profitability, and I thrive in environments that challenge me to think strategically while still diving deep into the technical details. Whether it's optimizing delivery routes or improving user experience in a metaverse, my ability to see both the big picture and the



technical aspects allow me to develop solutions that are both scalable and efficient."

Devakinandan was born and raised across India. His father worked as a government servant and his mother is a homemaker. The family moved around a lot due to his father's job and thus, Devakinandan discovered technology very early in his life. He always enjoyed Maths and Physics in school and as he got into college, his fascination for technology also grew. He would spend hours in science and computer labs. As part of a science project, he even built

a robot which could lift objects and move them.

This is when he knew that he wanted to contribute to the industry by building systems that could solve real-world problems. It led him to pursue a B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering from the National Institute of Technology, Calicut.

He then began his career at Amazon at Hyderabad, India, where he worked on re-inventing amazon's reverse-logistics. After 3 years, he then moved to Seattle, USA to lead the Amazon Inventory organization and eventually Amazon's Last Mile technologies. He spent over 10 years designing and building large-scale systems that transformed reverse logistics, inventory management systems, and delivery systems. He led teams in Amazon's Last Mile and Amazon Inventory organizations, leading projects with multi-million dollar impact.

After Amazon, he joined Roblox, continuing to lead high-impact projects. At Roblox, Devakinandan works on making the avatar experience seamless and rich in the metaverse.

The idea behind his career has always been to push the boundaries of technology, whether through enhancing operational efficiency or creating engaging user experiences. Through both triumphs and challenges, his focus has always been on solving complex problems and delivering meaningful results that positively impact customers and businesses.

Among his biggest challenges has been balancing professional and personal life, especially in a high-demand industry like technology.

"Technology is constantly changing and I need to keep up with it. I focus on setting clear priorities and managing my time efficiently. I exercise, eat healthy, and sometimes meditate. I also believe in the importance of taking breaks and recharging mentally to maintain productivity and creativity. Being transparent with my team and family about my commitments has helped me create a healthy balance. Additionally, leveraging a support system and learning to delegate tasks

effectively has allowed me to meet the demands of both my professional and personal responsibilities."

As a result, Devakinandan has received numerous awards for excellence in operational excellence, project management, and innovation. He is most proud of leading and building Amazon's Grocery delivery technology initiative, which helped customers get grocery delivery within 2 hours at affordable prices. He is also proud of many other initiatives he worked on, such as the Rolling-Stone migration which resulted in billions of dollars in savings for Amazon. At

Roblox, he led high-impact projects that helped scale Roblox from 22 million DAU to 80 million DAU in just 2 years.

His strengths include problem-solving, strategic thinking, and collaboration. His ability to lead teams through complex challenges is something which has helped him immensely. On the other hand, a learning area for him has been learning when to delegate. Earlier in his career, Devakinandan would try to handle too much himself, but he has since learned the importance of trusting his team and empowering them to take ownership of tasks.

Today, he has emerged as a promising leader in the global tech industry. Sharing his mantra for others, Devakinandan says, "The tech industry is ever-evolving, and staying ahead requires both adaptability and curiosity. Don't be afraid to take risks and step outside your comfort zone. Success comes from perseverance, collaboration, and the desire to push the boundaries of what may seem impossible. I'm excited to see what the future holds for the tech industry, and I'm committed to being a part of the positive changes that lie ahead."



A STEP INTO THE BEAUTY AND HISTORY OF

SOUTH KOREA





It is a place where you get the best of traditions, culture, futuristic cities, magical castles, delectable food and, most of all, warm people. Yes, this place is none other than one of the most trending global destinations – South Korea. Rising on global travel charts all thanks to the popularity of hit Korean TV shows, movies, skincare, boybands, music and food, many tourists are flocking to this country to experience a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Here are some of the best cities which you can visit on a trip to this delightful country.

SEOUL: THE BUSTLING CAPITAL

Half of this country's population resides in the capital city of Seoul, and it has embraced its Korean culture and history while seamlessly amalgamating the advancing world. With a scenery dominated by skyscrapers, Seoul is perched beside the mountains and the Han River flowing through its ground. You can visit the Gyeongbokgung Palace, which dates back to 1395 from the Joseon dynasty and is surrounded by the Gyeonghoeru Pavilion.

Then there is the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which is a 250-kilometer-long buffer zone separating North and South Korea. It is heavily guarded but is worth a visit. For the best panoramic view of the city, Namsan Seoul Tower offers some jaw-dropping views and a melting sunset. For a closer look at Seoul's past, you can take a stop at the Bukchon Hanok Village, which has some preserved traditional Hanok houses, which feels almost like a calming retreat from the city.



BUSAN: THE COASTAL BEAUTY

The second largest city, the coastal vibes of this city are unmatched as it is known worldwide for its seafood and food markets. You can even enjoy lively nightlife with a lot of clubs and pubs to unwind after a long day. One of the key tourist hotspots is surely Gamcheon Culture Village, which has lovely cafes, local artisanal shops and, of course, mesmerising city views. Unlike other temples in Korea, the Haedong Yonggungsa Temple is located on a cliff that is surely a sight to behold. Haeundae is another place to roam around while enjoying local street food as you soak in the beachy atmosphere. The Gwangan Bridge is lined with LED's for a perfect night view.



GYEONGJU: THE ANCIENT CAPITAL

For all the history buffs, welcome to a place known as a 'museum without walls', as every street and corner is a slice of history served on a platter. Gyeongju has it all, from well-preserved temples to ancient tombs, giving a revered understanding of the country's past. Donggung Palace & Wolji Pond dates back to 674CE, having been rebuilt in 935; it includes relics discovered in the pond. Up next is Daerengwon Tumuli Park, which is a royal tomb complex that can be explored on foot to soak up its intact history. Cheomseongdae Observatory is one of the oldest surviving astronomical observatories in Asia, almost 1400 years old and is a must-visit.

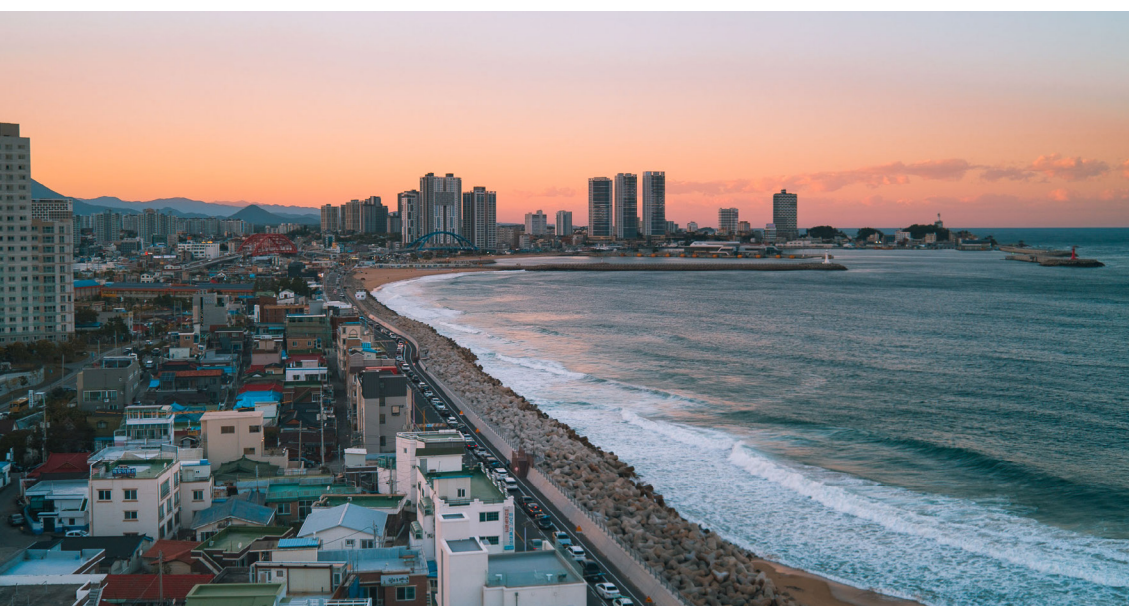
JEJU ISLAND: THE VOLCANIC ISLAND

Jeju island is almost a magical place not because of its pristine setting but because it can take away all the blues from life with its jaw-dropping beauty. Its optimal weather is pleasant throughout the year and the best way to explore this island is on a bike as you cycle around the volcanic coastline with a backdrop of sun, sand and surf. You can visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hallasan National Park which has the Hallasan, South Korea's highest peak.



SOKCHO-SI: THE GATEWAY TO SEORAKSAN

For a quiet reverie, the coastal city of Sokcho-si is the ultimate escapade from the humdrum of city life. It is also the gateway to Seoraksan National Park, one of Korea's most beautiful natural reserves. This is for all the nature lovers out there, as it is perfect for hiking, trekking and exploring wildlife. Sokcho Beach is a less crowded beach and has stunning views of the East Sea. It also has a bus stop, which was on BTS's album cover, Spring Day.



DR. ANANTHARAJ.T.V.

Pioneer in the niche industry of Semiconductors & Flash memory Systems



As the 'heart and brain' of electronic products, semiconductors are vital for the growth of technology. Leading this development across borders is the dynamic Dr. Anantharaj Thalaimalai Vanaraj. Over a span of 2 decades, Dr. Thalaimalai Vanaraj has led path-breaking innovations in the niche field of semiconductors, winning 6 patents, 18 trade secrets, 15 publications and multiple awards along the way.

Presently, he's the Formal Verification Lead for

Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) Hardware Chips at Samsung Austin Research and Development Center (SARC) and Advanced Computing Lab (ACL) of Samsung Austin Semiconductors (SAS), based out of San Jose, California, USA.

Dr. Thalaimalai Vanaraj's passion stemmed from continuous learning and impactful contributions in the field of Semiconductors. Born in Rajapalayam, a small town near Madurai in the state of Tamil Nadu, India, Anantharaj was raised in a middle-class family with

working parents. His mother was a primary school teacher (now retired), while his father was a municipal councilor at Rajapalayam Municipal Corporation.

Ever since his childhood, Anantharaj was intrigued by electronic equipment that was rapidly changing the way of life. He spent hours dissecting small equipment like Walkman or walkie-talkie. In the early 1990s, everyone was left amazed by personal computers and their ability to perform tasks using software programs. Yet Anantharaj was only interested in the hardware components of

the PC like Intel processors, Interface Controllers and RAM components. These aspects triggered his interest in electronics and eventually semiconductors. He was thus motivated by his father and uncle to pursue a career in electronics engineering.

Anantharaj completed his Bachelor's in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Thanthai Periyar Govt. Institute of Technology (affiliated to Madras University), Vellore and Master's in VLSI System from National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli. In 2022, he became the



1st person in his family to receive a Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Microelectronics from National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli.

Today, Anantharaj has more than 20 years of experience as technical lead and held various top management roles in ASIC/FPGA/SOC & Flash memory device development for consumer electronics, AI/ML devices, wireless and storage applications. His vast experience in semiconductor-based chip design and verification spans across leading organizations like Wipro, LSI Logic India Pvt Ltd, Samsung India, SanDisk India Device Design Centre Pvt Ltd, Samsung Austin Semiconductors, and Western Digital Corporation.

He is a proven leader in both technical and people management with extensive research, successful project execution, and key innovation as his strength within various semiconductor organizations.

Creative and skilled, Anantharaj has strongly established 'execution with innovation' as his leadership style. He had played a key role in developing more than 15 generations of NAND Flash Memory devices at SanDisk/Western Digital. He won the 'Manager as Allies' award for his inclusive management style, and successfully established a front-end design team of 40 engineers for NAND Flash Memory development in Bangalore, India. In 2018, with less than 15 yrs of experience, he was promoted to Director level at SanDisk owing to his expertise

and skills. Furthermore, he was awarded 6 patents and 18 trade secrets for his innovations at Western Digital.

His additional achievements include:

- 1ZCR Project Success Award, 2016
- Winner, Popular Choice Award - Western Digital India International Data Technology Conference (IDTC), 2018
- India Inventor Recognition, 2019
- Presentation Award, Synopsys User Group (SNUG) – Silicon Valley, 2024
- Winner, Poster Award – Paper on Formal Verification in the TechCon 2024 at Samsung Semiconductor, USA
- Collaborated with ECE department of National Institute of Technology, Trichy, towards including 'Functional Verification' and 'Semiconductor Memories' as new syllabus for Board of Studies (BoS) recommendations, 2017
- Regularly invited as Chief Guest and Guest Lecturer at universities across India from 2012-2022
- Nominated as 'Industry Expert Member' on Board of Studies (BoS) at ECE Department of Vivekananda College of Engineering for Women, Tiruchengode, 2019
- Presented papers at IEEE International Conference in 2023 and 2024
- Published innumerable media and scholarly articles across different mediums.

A promising leader in the global semiconductor industry,

Anantharaj is also affiliated as Member/Fellow at IEEE, IETE, BCS, and IICSPA. His wife too is a semiconductor design verification expert and works with Synopsys Inc, USA. The couple is blessed with a daughter, who is studying in middle school.

How does he deal with the curveball's life throws at him, we ask Anantharaj. He shares, "Instead of worrying

about challenges, I plan how to leverage my strengths while depending on family or team to placate my areas of improvements. I follow the ICE model for project and people management.

- ICE Model for Project Management: Innovation, Communication, Execution.
- ICE Model for People Management: Integrity, Collaboration, Empathy."

Anantharaj's key strengths comprise his dedication to what he does, and ability in how he does it. Sharing his mantra of success, he sums up his journey with the 3 C's: "Commitment, Continuous learning, and Collaboration."





Dr. Fahad Attar doesn't just lead a healthcare revolution—he embodies it. As the founder of Regenes Orthobiologics and a globally acclaimed orthopaedic surgeon, his journey from a conventional medical career to pioneering cutting-edge regenerative treatments is both personal and professional. What sets him apart, though, is not just the accolades that line his walls, but the deep, patient-centered approach that drives him to change lives in the operating room and beyond.

Sitting across from him, you'd likely see the calm focus of a man who has carefully balanced family, ambition, and an unwavering passion for



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2024

DR. FAHAD ATTAR

Transforming Medicine, One Life at a Time

innovation. "My inspiration comes from seeing how regenerative treatments can truly transform lives," he says softly. For Dr. Attar, it isn't just about healing bones; it's about giving people back their lives—without invasive surgeries.

His career began, like many, with rigorous medical training. But where others stayed on the path of traditional medicine, Dr. Attar took a leap into the unknown. He founded Regenes Orthobiologics, a clinic specializing in non-surgical orthobiologic therapies like PRP (platelet-rich plasma)

and cell-based treatments, which have now set new global standards in osteoarthritis and sports injury care. "I've always wanted to bridge the gap between traditional orthopaedics and advanced biologics," Dr. Attar shares, his voice filled with both humility and conviction.

The leap wasn't just professional—it was personal. "From my dad, I learned patience under pressure, and from my mom, I learned perseverance," he says, reflecting on how his parents shaped his approach to challenges. Those early lessons

helped him face the hurdles of establishing Regenesi on a global scale, including expanding clinics abroad and constantly pushing for innovation in the field.

Dr. Attar's journey as a healthcare entrepreneur didn't stop with Regenesi. Seeing the growing need for value-based healthcare, he co-founded We Healthify, a health tech company dedicated to improving healthcare delivery through technology. His ventures have not only garnered him recognition for his contributions but have also laid a foundation for future growth in the global healthcare system. "My goal is to make regenerative orthopaedic medicine accessible to patients globally," he explains, a vision that is becoming increasingly achievable through his relentless dedication.

Accolades have naturally followed his groundbreaking work. In addition to the 2023 Orthopaedic Surgeon of the Year title, he earned the Excellence in Healthcare award in 2024 at the Health Conference 2.0 in Dubai, and in 2025, he received the Impactful Contribution in Healthcare award from the HEaL Conference. These honors serve as formal recognition of his innovative contributions.

"I believe in a collaborative and inclusive leadership style," Dr. Attar says. "I empower my team by encouraging open communication and fostering an environment where ideas are shared freely." He's not one for rigid hierarchies; rather, he leads by example, valuing feedback and adapting as needed. His leadership

has nurtured a culture of innovation at Regenesi, where his team thrives on transparency and mutual respect.

Like many high achievers, Dr. Attar admits he's had to learn the art of delegation. "I used to take on too much, trying to do everything myself," he confesses. It's been a learning curve, but today, he is more focused on empowering his team and sharing responsibilities. This shift has allowed him to not only grow his ventures but also maintain a crucial balance between his professional and personal life.

Balancing the roles of a healthcare entrepreneur, surgeon, and family man is no easy feat. "I've learned to set clear boundaries between work

and home. When I'm with my family, I'm fully present," he says. "Being an entrepreneur can sometimes feel isolating, so having a support system is crucial. For me, that support is my wife, who is always there to discuss and bounce ideas with," he adds. His family, including his children, is his sanctuary. Whether traveling, exploring new cultures, or simply playing cricket with friends and family, Dr. Attar finds solace in these personal moments. "Cricket is my way of staying active and bonding with my loved ones," he shares with a warm smile.

Despite all his achievements, Dr. Attar remains grounded. "Challenges are inevitable, but it's how we respond to them that defines our journey," he reflects, offering

wisdom that applies both to his life and to the patients he treats. For him, there are no shortcuts to success—only persistence, passion, and a deep commitment to the journey. "Embrace change, view obstacles as opportunities for growth, and remember to stay connected to the people who matter most," he advises.

For Dr. Attar, the journey is far from over. With Regenesi continuing to push boundaries in regenerative medicine and We Healthify leading the charge in health tech solutions, his vision for a future where healthcare is both advanced and accessible is within reach. "There's no substitute for hard work," he says, "but enjoying the journey along the way is just as important."

It is this philosophy—equal parts relentless innovation and genuine human compassion—that makes Dr. Fahad Attar not just a leader in orthopaedics, but a pioneer for the future of medicine. More importantly, he remains grounded in what truly matters: transforming lives, one patient at a time.





DR. P.S. DATTATREYA

Global Leader in Cancer Care

Dr. Palanki Satya Dattatreya combines 2 decades of medical expertise with a passion for impacting lives.. to advance cancer care around the world! Armed with a multitude of academic honours and international awards, he currently serves as the Director and Chief of Medical Oncology at Renova Soumya Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Secunderabad, India. A prolific Speaker, he is also aligned with multiple global, national, and local organisations aimed at improving cancer care for patients the world over.

With cancer care advancing rapidly, Dr. P.S. Dattatreya's goal is to ensure that the best options reach a larger population, particularly in his country and region. "I want to continue to set new benchmarks in cancer care by acknowledging the latest research, advancing innovative treatment approaches, and providing personalized care plus tailored treatments," he says.

Dr. Dattatreya's years of practice at leading institutions coupled with his patient-centric approach to battle the



disease with complete zeal differentiate him as a doctor.

His academic trajectory has spanned renowned colleges and institutions, including the M.K.C.G. Medical College, Smt. N.H.L. Municipal Medical College, and B.J. Medical College. He has earned the Doctorate of Medicine in Medical Oncology from the prestigious Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute (GCRI), Ahmedabad, and thereafter the Diplomate of National Board (DNB) from the National Board of Examinations (NBE), New Delhi.

Similarly, his career graph climbed steadily upward at the Indo-American Cancer Institute and Research Centre, and thereafter the Omega Hospitals. Currently at Renova Soumya Comprehensive Cancer Centre (RSCC), Dr. Dattatreya advocates multidisciplinary care with an emphasis on collaboration between medical oncologists, surgical oncologists, radiation oncologists, and other specialists to ensure the best possible outcome for patients.

“I am a strong believer in targeted therapy and immunotherapy; I keenly follow all the recent developments in precision medicine which focus on developing drugs that target specific cancer cells to minimise harm to healthy tissues. As a treating medical oncologist, my goal is maximal efficacy against the disease and minimal toxicity to the patient. At RSCC too, we offer comprehensive treatment options ranging from chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy, minimally invasive surgeries, advanced reconstructive techniques, external beam radiotherapy, and stereotactic radiosurgery.”

Dr. Dattatreya feels that his strength is not just in his treatment efficacy or how many cancer survivors he has. Instead, compassion, empathy, sympathy, and time are the strongest pillars of strength for any oncologist.

“The disease takes a toll on the patients and their families.

Being able to put myself in their shoes to envision their problems and thus, being as approachable as possible are, I believe, my strengths. This is what differentiates a doctor from a ‘humane’ doctor.”

However, he also holds that the society itself can do much. According to global reports, there are more than 50 million 5-year cancer survivors, which is basically people who are cancer free for more than 5 years. The number itself reflects how far we have come in this crusade to conquer cancer - A lot has been done, however, there is lots more to do. So collaboration and cooperation is required from all fronts - medical bodies like hospitals, clinics, and research centres; government regulatory bodies; and most importantly, the patient’s family and friends.

“Putting it in the simplest manner - To go fast, go alone; to go far, go together. There is no One Man Army when it comes to cancer; but an enormous web of collaborative support that takes the patient forward also becomes an enormous victory for the entire medical fraternity.”

In his personal life too, Dr. Dattatreya credits the support of his wife for coming this far. Despite being a BDS and MDS gold medalist herself, she sacrificed her career to take care of their kids and home. When not spending time with his loving family, Dr. Dattatreya loves to read books on motivation, fiction, biographies, and academia.

“My last book, the Mossad was thoroughly invigorating as I was smitten by the passion with which the agency functions and the strategies and covert techniques they use to catch their enemy. I found myself relating the same to cancer care with cancer being our notorious enemy.”

A passionate cancer care leader, Dr. Dattatreya’s proficiency has been acknowledged with honours such as:

- Best Medical Oncologist Award by HMTV Health Care Awards 2022.
- Award from OIC & All Offrs of Cancer Centre, CMH Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2022.
- Best Medical Oncologist Award by Hi9 Doctors Awards 2023.
- Speaker Award by MOSB (Medical Oncology Society in Bangladesh) in Dhaka Cancer Summit 2023.
- Speaker Award by National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital.
- Best Speaker award by BLDE (Bijapur Lingayat District Educational Association), 2023
- Keynote Speaker at Immuno-oncology yearly conference 2023
- Speaker Award by IMA (Indian Medical Association) Karimnagar, Guntur, Nizamabad, and Kompally, 2023.
- Healthcare Professional of the Year, Asian African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, 2024
- Times Health Excellence Award for Outstanding Icon in Medical Oncology, 2024.





Professor Fahad Rizvi, originally from Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, embarked on his remarkable journey two decades ago when he relocated to the UK after earning his MBBS. Since then, he has become a transformative force in the British healthcare system, leaving an indelible mark through his work with the National Health Service (NHS). Besides chairing and sitting on various boards nationally, he is currently the Director for Willows Health NHS and Clinical Lead for NHS Leicester City Integrated Care Board. Fahad is celebrated for his dynamic and comprehensive approach towards education of healthcare professionals,

business development, optimising healthcare operations and patient care across the UK. His strategies have not only enhanced the quality of care but also set new national benchmarks, making him a pioneer in the field of healthcare transformation. His approach focuses on the integration of services, ensuring that patient care is both efficient and compassionate.

Beyond his contributions to the NHS, Fahad has shown remarkable entrepreneurial flair within the healthcare sector. His business acumen has led him to establish and oversee some of the most successful healthcare practices in the UK. Currently, he



FAHAD RIZVI

Shaping Integrated Care for a Healthier Future

manages one of the largest General Practices in the country, demonstrating his capability to handle large-scale operations with precision and care. He was also the visionary behind a highly successful organization that facilitated the NHS's transition of surgical and daycare services into community settings. This initiative has not only alleviated pressure on hospitals but has also made healthcare services more accessible and convenient for patients. His entrepreneurial efforts highlight his dedication to creating sustainable, patient-centric solutions that benefit communities on a national scale.

In academia, Fahad's commitment shines just as brightly. He is deeply invested in nurturing the future generation of healthcare professionals, bridging the gap between academic knowledge and practical, community-based medical care. As an educator, Fahad's enthusiasm is contagious—he inspires both peers and students alike with his passion for teaching and his drive for excellence. His focus is not merely on imparting knowledge but on building healthcare leaders who will continue his legacy of innovation and compassion. His work in academia extends



beyond the classroom; he is actively involved in research, contributing to the advancement of community-based surgery and integrated care models that are changing the way healthcare is delivered. His efforts ensure that his students are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate the complex, evolving landscape of modern healthcare.

Professor Rizvi's impact is particularly felt in the development of care pathways that enhance collaboration between specialists and generalists. His efforts to bridge this gap have transformed the traditional approach to patient care, making it more cohesive and efficient. By integrating various healthcare services like primary and secondary care, public health, city council and voluntary sector organisations he has not only improved patient outcomes but also set a precedence for integrated care models in the UK and beyond by encouraging a collaborative culture. His work serves as an example for healthcare systems globally, proving that a unified approach can lead to better health outcomes and more streamlined care delivery.

His influence also extends far beyond clinical and entrepreneurial achievements. Fahad's dedication to spreading knowledge and improving healthcare standards is exceptional. He actively trains and mentors upcoming generations of healthcare professionals, ensuring that they are grounded in principles of excellence, ethics, and compassion. Through

workshops, seminars, and international collaborations, he ensures that the values he upholds are disseminated not only within the UK but also abroad. His commitment to education is evident in the way he continually seeks to improve and adapt his teaching methods, aiming to inspire and empower healthcare professionals globally.

One of the most respected medical leaders in Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland, Fahad Rizvi embodies the motto of his college, "scientia cum caritas"—knowledge with

charity. This ethos is not just a guiding principle but a way of life for him, reflecting his deep belief in merging medical expertise with genuine care for patients. His approach ensures that every patient is treated with the utmost respect and that healthcare services are delivered with empathy. His leadership exemplifies what it means to be a true medical professional, combining technical expertise with a human touch.

Besides numerous awards, Fahad was recently awarded the NRI Achievers Award 2024 as the 'Innovator of the Year in Healthcare' in

recognition of his trailblazing work. This accolade is a testament to his innovative spirit, his relentless pursuit of excellence, and his dedication to transforming healthcare. The award highlights his role as a leader who is not afraid to challenge traditional practices and explore new, more efficient ways of delivering care.

On a personal note, Fahad wishes to express his deep gratitude to his parents, brother, sister, his wider family, and work colleagues and friends, for their unwavering support, inspiration, and motivation. Their constant encouragement has played an essential role in his journey.

Fahad is supported by his wife, Dr. Mehar Ahson, a Consultant Anaesthetist, and their three daughters Zara, Zoya, and Safa. He credits these four incredible women as his inspiration and the driving force behind his successes. Whether in the operating room, the classroom or at home, Fahad's story is one of resilience, innovation, and an unyielding commitment to transforming healthcare for the better. He often expresses the sentiment 'Love what you do and do what you love'.



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GAGANDEEP SINGH CHAHAL

From Punjab to the World: A Journey of Influence and Inspiration

Gagandeep Singh Chahal's story begins from Bathinda, a city tucked in the heart of Punjab where air carries the fragrance of fields in full bloom, and roads are alive with the rhythm of everyday life. Gagandeep was raised in a home where compassion was not merely an emotion but a profession—his parents, both doctors, spent their lives healing others. The hum of conversations around service, commitment, and knowledge

filled the home, planting in him a deep sense of purpose from a young age.

Gagandeep's formative years at St. Joseph's Convent ignited his passion for learning, leading him to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering at Punjab Technical University. However, in 2008, he took a leap of faith, leaving the warmth of Punjab for the United States to pursue a Master's degree. This transition was filled with



challenges, as he navigated a new environment and culture, but the unwavering support of his parents back home and his extended family in the U.S. served as his anchor during this transformative journey.

Chahal's academic success opened doors to a world that fascinated him—data. He began his career as a consultant in the technology sector, with a focus on Business Intelligence and data analytics. "The complexity of data," he says, "was like a puzzle I wanted to solve." He immersed himself in enterprise-level analytical platforms, working with Fortune 500 companies, where each project seemed like an intricate tapestry of numbers and algorithms. His fascination with data wasn't just about numbers; it was about the stories they told and

the insights they revealed.

It was during these years that Gagandeep honed his skills in data analytics, setting the foundation for what would become his lifelong passion—uncovering actionable insights from mountains of information. His appetite for business grew alongside his love for data, and soon he was taking on leadership roles that allowed him to not just analyze but shape the direction of data-driven projects.

While Gagandeep's career was soaring, life was not without its challenges. Balancing the demanding world of technology and analytics with personal life often required delicate juggling, but he was never alone in this journey. His spouse, Ravneet Kaur, stood by him, offering the emotional strength that often



goes unspoken but is so deeply felt. “Ravneet is my support system,” he says, smiling, “especially during the tough times.”

The secret to balance, Chahal believes, lies in being present—whether it’s in the boardroom or at home with family. He remains committed to honesty and integrity, values he holds close in both spheres of his life. It’s this authenticity that has helped him navigate the complex intersections of personal and professional commitments.

At the heart of Gagandeep’s work is a simple but powerful belief: data holds the key to transformative change. His passion for data analytics stems from its ability to shape decisions, drive growth, and solve complex problems. “I thrive on creating solutions that make a tangible impact,” he says. His leadership in data isn’t just about numbers on a screen—it’s about finding meaning, strategies, and opportunities in those numbers. Gagandeep leads his team with a clear vision: to unlock the full potential of data, using it to fuel innovation and strategic decision-making, with high focus on best practices around data quality & security standpoint.

Gagandeep’s journey hasn’t been without its learning moments. His strengths—an analytical mindset, leadership, and adaptability—have been the pillars of his success. But he is the first to admit that sometimes he gets too caught up in the details. “I’ve learned to step back,” he confesses, “to trust my team more, to delegate, and to keep an eye on the bigger picture. And fortunately, my team

continues to do an exceptional job” This balance between detail and strategy has been a learning curve, but one he has embraced with grace. He graciously credits his mentors, Rob Palmer and Dave King, for their instrumental roles in shaping and guiding his leadership journey. “My approach to Servant Leadership is something I learned from Rob, who has always been a role model for me. Additionally, Dave’s support was pivotal in helping me navigate the management aspects and intricacies of Business Intelligence,” Gagandeep recalls.

Among his numerous professional achievements, Gagandeep takes great pride in the recognition and awards he has garnered throughout his career. His collection of Above & Beyond Awards from EnerBank USA serves as a testament to his substantial contributions, particularly in the company’s digital transformation and the successful execution of the divestment of the Bank’s loan portfolio, valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

A distinguished author for CDO Magazine, Gagandeep is also an esteemed honoree of Senior Member status with IEEE and serves as a Technology Expert in judging various industry-wide technology awards, including the Stevie Awards. Now at Regions Bank, he plays a pivotal role in several critical initiatives, including Data Lake Integration, Fed Findings, Systems Integration, and defect reporting projects. These efforts enable the Bank to operate with safety and soundness while implementing

effective SOX controls to meet regulatory expectations and ensure compliance.

His robust technical foundation—bolstered by dual Master’s degrees in Software and Mechanical Engineering and an Executive Leadership certification from Cornell University—has equipped him to guide multiple organizations toward mature data management practices and enhanced profitability, with a strong emphasis on safety and soundness. Gagandeep’s dedication to excellence continues to drive meaningful advancements within the financial sector.

While Gagandeep is both proud and humbled by his recognitions, it is his personal

life that brings him the greatest joy. “The birth of my daughter, Meher Kaur Chahal, in 2021, is my greatest achievement,” he shares with a radiant smile. “She has brought a depth of happiness and contentment into my life that words cannot express.”

As Gagandeep reflects on his journey, his advice to others is simple yet profound: “Stay curious, stay resilient, and lead with empathy.” He believes in the power of continuous learning, in setting clear goals, and in working diligently towards them. But more than that, he believes in the power of kindness. “Foster an environment where people feel supported,” he urges. “True leadership is about lifting others up.”

And with that, Gagandeep Singh Chahal’s story, from a small town in Punjab to leading data transformation projects across continents, stands as a testament to the power of perseverance, passion, and purpose.





Hemal Patel's story is one of relentless curiosity and innovation—a journey that began in a small corner of his childhood home, watching his cousin bring patterns to life on a computer screen. That moment ignited a passion within him for technology's potential to shape lives and solve real-world problems. His first creation was a simple cheque-printing software to ease his father's daily tasks, a humble beginning that would foreshadow the transformative work he would go on to achieve in the tech industry.

Born and raised in India, Hemal's academic journey took him to VIT Vellore, where he pursued a BTech in Computer Science. It was there that he developed a prototype for a personal finance-sharing tool— similar to what we know as SplitWise today.

Though it started as a side

project, it hinted at his budding interest in the fintech industry, foreshadowing a career spent shaping the world of digital payments. After graduating, Hemal joined PayPal in Chennai, where he spent four years mastering the intricacies of the Payouts team. His time there was transformative, professionally and personally, as he learned the nuances of distributed systems and their impact on global commerce. Realizing that self-study alone wasn't enough to deepen his expertise, he made the bold decision to pursue a Master's degree in Computer Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a school renowned for its focus on distributed systems.

Today, Hemal leads TikTok Shop Payments at ByteDance, managing operations across North America, EMEA, and LATAM. Under his leadership, the business has



HEMAL PATEL

Where Curiosity Meets the Code

grown tenfold, reducing costs, enhancing user engagement, and strengthening platform security. At PayPal, he revamped the Payouts platform, integrating it with Venmo and developing solutions that touched millions of lives. But Hemal's contributions don't stop at his

corporate achievements; he has an enduring commitment to the open-source community, exemplified by his work with Webpack—a tool used by millions of websites worldwide and funded by major tech giants.

His belief in collaboration



and innovation beyond professional confines makes him a true advocate for technology's power to bring about positive change.

When asked about his inspiration, Hemal's eyes light up. "My drive comes from solving complex payment problems and building technology that truly impacts people's lives," he explains. For him, it's not just about business growth but also enhancing user experiences and security. Looking ahead, he envisions a future where payment technology is scalable, secure, and inclusive. He is determined to mentor and nurture the next generation of tech talent, sharing his knowledge and values to create a lasting impact.

Hemal's leadership style is rooted in empathy, collaboration, and a belief in empowering others. He is a firm believer in starting with the "why" to understand situations deeply. "I often dive several layers deeper than necessary," he admits with a laugh. "It may make me look like a fool at times, but it's this habit that gives me depth and, over time, breadth." This approach has allowed him to develop a nuanced understanding of complex problems, earning him the respect of his peers. "Growth multiplies when you empower others," he says, reflecting on how his efforts to mentor and uplift have created a ripple effect in his teams.

Yet, like any human being, Hemal acknowledges his weaknesses. His insatiable curiosity, while a strength, can sometimes lead him down rabbit holes, causing him

to lose sight of immediate priorities. "I'm learning to compartmentalize and manage this better," he admits, viewing it as an area for growth.

Balancing a demanding career with personal life is a challenge Hemal has embraced with discipline and grace. "I set clear boundaries between work and personal time," he says. By prioritizing time management, he ensures that he

remains fully present in both spheres. Physical and mental well-being are also important to him. His day begins with meditation to clear his mind, and he hits the gym regularly to stay physically active. "Bay Area life offers endless opportunities for exploration," he says, sharing stories of weekend adventures with friends, trying out new cuisines, and discovering new places.

In his downtime, Hemal enjoys reading self-help books and spending quality time with close friends. "Good company is the best way to recharge," he says, emphasizing the importance of nurturing one's mental health.

His leadership philosophy is built on collaboration, openness, and continuous learning. Hemal strives to create an inclusive environment where everyone's voice is valued, and knowledge-sharing is encouraged. "Gatekeeping has no place in my teams," he asserts. By promoting open communication and providing clear goals, he empowers his team members to innovate and take ownership of their work. "Leadership is about inspiring others to reach their full potential," he says.

To aspiring leaders, Hemal's message is simple yet profound: "Embrace continuous learning and stay curious. Take risks, face challenges head-on, and always give back to your community." For him, success is a blend of passion, resilience, and a commitment to making a difference. Hemal Patel's journey is a testament to the transformative power of curiosity, collaboration, and an unwavering drive to create meaningful change.





In the ever evolving world of global digitech, Jaswinder Singh's leadership path in data, robotics and artificial intelligence spanning across two decades and multiple industries has seen him emerge as a trailblazer in data architecture.

Today, as the Director - Data & AI at Data Wiser Technologies Inc. in Toronto, Canada, he continually strives to push the boundaries of data use in AI and robotics, focusing not only on technical application, but also creating effective solutions that address real-world challenges. His role is critical to shaping the cutting-edge advancements in automation-driven systems, AI, and changing industries.

In addition to technology, Jaswinder is dedicated to mentoring and inspiring the future generations, as well as promoting collaborations across borders. He considers this an important part of his success.

"My greatest inspiration has

always been the limitless potential of technology to solve real-world problems and improve lives. My goals are centered on advancing innovation in AI and automation, ensuring that these technologies are not only cutting-edge but also accessible and impactful for businesses and individuals alike. I also aim to continue mentoring the next generation of tech leaders and fostering collaborations that drive positive change across the globe."

Jaswinder began his journey by learning how technology can solve complex problems. He completed his Education in Computer Science from Conestoga College, Canada, followed by a plethora of licenses and certifications. In 2009, he began his professional career with Blackberry, followed by a great learning curve through the big 4 consulting firms and banks.

His portfolio comprises a diverse collection of projects and leadership roles that span across various industries, with

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JASWINDER SINGH

Setting Global Standards in
Data & Cloud Architecture



a core focus on data in robotics and artificial intelligence.

“Over time, I have worked on projects that not only had advanced AI technology, but also provided tangible benefits to industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, and logistics. Along this route, I grew into a leader. It helped me balance innovation with a deep commitment to nurturing talent and create opportunities for collaboration in diverse teams.”

In 2017, Jaswinder was handpicked to head data and cloud architecture at Data Wiser Technologies Inc. where he has since led teams in developing AI-driven solutions that optimize operations, enhance automation, and improve decision-making for businesses globally. His work includes cutting-edge implementation in machine learning algorithms, real-time data processing, and intelligent systems integration. Additionally, he has collaborated on international projects and mentored emerging talents in the AI space.

One of his key strengths is his ability to think strategically and act decisively, especially in fast-evolving fields like robotics and AI. He prides himself on being a problem-solver who thrives in complex environments and enjoys mentoring others. However, like everyone else, he has his weaknesses. “At times, I can be overly focused on the details, which may slow down the decision-making process. Learning to delegate more effectively has been a journey, and it’s something I continue

to work on. For others, I hope my experiences highlight the importance of both adaptability and self-awareness in leadership.”

Jaswinder believes in leading by example and empowering those around him. His leadership style is collaborative - he promotes open communication, active participation, and fosters an environment where everyone feels valued. He tries to provide clear direction and gives his team the freedom to explore new ideas and perspectives. He is also committed to continuous learning for himself and his team to grow and adapt in today’s rapidly evolving world.

An advocate of work-life harmony, Jaswinder feels balancing work and personal life is always about setting clear priorities and boundaries. He dedicates precious time to his family and stays by their side fully. At work, he focuses on productivity and time management to maximize efficiency. Being mindful and taking breaks to recharge helps him maintain a healthy balance.

In his personal time though, he likes to relax by taking photos of nature, landscapes, and special moments with family. Photography helps him hold on to and appreciate the beauty in everyday life. He also loves spending quality time with his children doing activities they love, whether playing sports, exploring outdoor activities, or just enjoying a quiet evening together. These moments allow him to recharge and create lasting memories while balancing work demands.



A promising leader in global data architecture, Jaswinder reflects upon his journey and shares his wisdom for our readers: “To all readers, I encourage you to embrace challenges as opportunities for growth. Innovation and flexibility are keys to success in today’s rapidly changing world. No matter what branch you are in, stay curious, adaptable, and always strive to achieve your goals. Surround yourself with people who inspire and challenge you, and never stop learning. Remember that every setback is just a stepping stone towards success. Go beyond the limits, you’ll be amazed at what you can achieve.”



JOHN AKKARAKARAN JOSE

Building Bridges Across Continents



Born in India, John Akkarakaran Jose's journey is one of unyielding curiosity, resilience, and innovation. From the bustling streets of his hometown to the cutting-edge boardrooms of global financial giants, his path has been defined by a drive to learn, lead, and inspire. Today, John stands as a visionary in the world of financial technology, a mentor to future innovators, and a global citizen dedicated to making a lasting impact.

John's story begins with a solid academic foundation,

earning his Master's in Computer Applications from the esteemed Bharathiar University. From those early days of coding and problem-solving, his passion for technology was clear. However, it wasn't just about the technical aspects; John was drawn to how technology could solve real-world challenges and create meaningful change.

His professional journey took flight at some of the world's leading financial institutions, including HSBC, Credit Suisse, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC),

and Capital One Financial. Over two decades, John has taken on pivotal roles that have reshaped the financial technology landscape. His portfolio is a testament to his ability to lead and innovate—spearheading cloud migrations, integrating enterprise platforms, and delivering scalable solutions tailored to evolving business needs.

At Capital One, where he has spent the last decade,

John has been at the helm of transformative projects. He has led the shift to a cloud-native architecture for the credit card application technology, a move that not only enhanced efficiency and security but also positioned the organization as a leader in the digital era. Through his work, John has revolutionized how financial systems operate, embracing serverless architectures and cutting-edge tools to align technology with business goals.



But John's contributions extend far beyond the technical realm. A passionate advocate for mentorship, he plays an active role in programs like Capital One's CODERS initiative, where he introduces high school students to the world of software engineering. "Seeing young minds light up when they grasp a concept or solve a challenge is incredibly fulfilling," he shares. "It reminds me why I fell in love with technology in the first place."

John's mentorship isn't limited to classrooms. He serves as a judge for prestigious technology awards, including the Globe Awards and Business Intelligence Group, evaluating innovations that shape the industry's future. His commitment to fostering the next generation of leaders is evident in his involvement with the Braven Capstone Challenge, where he mentors college students tackling real-world projects.

Innovation lies at the core of John's professional ethos. With a pending decision patent in the Credit Card Guest Checkout domain, he has demonstrated a commitment to reimagining how financial transactions are conducted. "Innovation is about solving problems in ways that no one has thought of before," he explains. "It's about challenging the status quo and building solutions that are practical, scalable, and impactful."

John's journey has been inspired by a blend of personal and professional influences.

"Curiosity has always been my driving force," he says. "It pushes me to explore new possibilities and embrace challenges." He credits mentors, colleagues, and his family for shaping his path, reminding him of the importance of resilience and balance.

For John, balance is not just a buzzword—it's a way of life. Whether he's leading a complex project or traveling the world with his wife, he is deliberate about staying present in the moment. "Striking a balance between professional and personal life requires clear boundaries and mindfulness," he reflects. "When I'm at work, I give it my all. When I'm with family, I'm fully there."

Travel is one of John's great passions, and he has explored five of the seven continents and 40 U.S. states. "Travel broadens my perspective and reminds me of the beauty and diversity of our world," he shares. Alongside his wife, he enjoys discovering hidden gems, immersing himself in different cultures, and indulging in culinary adventures. Their dog, Oliver, adds a unique energy to their lives, bringing daily joy and companionship.

John embodies servant leadership, focusing on empowering others and fostering collaboration. "Great leadership creates a supportive, motivating environment," he says, valuing diverse perspectives and collective wisdom. "It's not about having all the answers but asking the right questions." Looking to

the future, John's goals are both ambitious and grounded. Professionally, he aspires to continue driving technological innovation, mentoring future leaders, and leaving a legacy of impactful solutions. On a personal level, he hopes to visit the remaining two continents on his travel list and deepen his commitment to lifelong learning.

When asked what message he would share with readers, John's response is simple yet profound: "Stay curious, embrace the journey, and be authentic. Curiosity opens doors, and authenticity builds connections that truly matter. The path to success is rarely linear, but it's in those twists and turns that we grow and discover our true potential."

John Akkarakaran Jose's journey exemplifies how passion, perseverance, and purpose can drive meaningful impact. Whether leading projects, mentoring future leaders, or exploring the world, he shows that innovation and humanity are deeply interconnected.



THE FUTURE OF LUXURY TRAVEL WITH
**HIGH-END SUVS
AND ELECTRIC
VEHICLES**



A growing uncertainty and discontentment amongst people has been quite noticeable and can be seen to surge at alarming rates ever since the world was struck by the COVID-19 pandemic. What made such changes to the thinking and behaviour behind these happenings is still being determined. Some may regard the sheer fragility of life and the uncertainty of the near future to be key to the fact that people have stopped overthinking and worrying too much about their future selves and would much rather enjoy the day as they live it. This is evident in how people have changed their spending habits, lifestyles, and other things.

With this comes the 'need' or 'want' for luxury travel. Luxury travel has many nodes, be it air travel that includes the finest amenities or cars that make one feel elated by their glamorous looks, the build quality, the bespoke interiors, or excellent drive quality. As an example, in India, SUVs and mid-sized SUVs have seen a quadruple growth in sales numbers since the year 2020. The growing innovation and boost in technological advancements has also called for Electric vehicles to show up and grab a chunk of this ever-growing market.

Electric vehicles definitely have the edge over the regular fuel-run cars since they save the cost of running for the end user, but they also prove to be more environment friendly since the lowered pollution levels and the impact on lessening the demand for



fuel are both quintessential for the environment and our future generations. The other aspect of electric vehicles is that people feel a boost in morale and like to boast about how their smarter choices are helping save the environment from degrading further.

Car companies have realised the shift in consumer demands and the general trends of the markets and have enforced these by accelerating the production and development of such new SUVs, especially the ones that scream luxury. Now, even luxury can be deemed as one that is made to fit into budgets and one that is designed and priced to be attainable by only a handful.

Luxury car makers have tried their hand at these electric vehicles as well. Some namely

examples include BMW iX and i7, Mercedes EQE and EQS, Audi e-Tron GT and Q8 e-Tron, Porsche Taycan, Volvo XC40, Jaguar I-Pace and Rolls-Royce Spectre. These brands have already promised to deliver high-end and class-art luxury to their customers, but other brands, such as Hyundai, KIA, BYD, etc, have also come up to grab a piece of cake in this market. Whether luxury or high-end electric vehicles, these brands have also extended their hand to innovate and deliver such products. Hyundai's IONIQ-5 and Kia's EV9 are both electric SUVs, and BYD's Seal is an electric sedan, but they are all designed to deliver a sense of luxury amongst its buyers.

Tesla is known worldwide to produce one of the best electric vehicles while offering all the

luxuries; playing on a gaming console connected to the car is seemingly one of them. On the other hand, luxury SUVs have also grown in numbers, with these similar brands going toe-to-toe to deliver the finest products. The changes in trends and people's wants only seem to indicate further growth in these luxury SUVs and electric vehicles day after day. The only challenges electric vehicles face now are the lack of infrastructure and charging points available, the central issue of battery degradation, and the high replacement cost. On the other hand, SUVs, like other fuel-run vehicles, will always have the upper hand in gaining market traction, but only until some future sanctions are placed on petrol or diesel-operating cars.



Jonathon Cummings' journey from a small island to managing multi-million-dollar alliances at Deloitte and speaking at global forums like the United Nations has shaped him into the global leader that he is. An Alliance Manager at Deloitte, New York, he also contributes to - Black Professionals in International Affairs, and World Business Angel Investment Forum, promoting financial inclusion globally.

"I take pride in staying true to my roots, leading with integrity, and creating opportunities for others along

the way. Whether it's driving partnerships or advocating for sustainability, I aim to inspire and uplift, showing that with dedication, vision, and community, success knows no boundaries — no matter where you're from."

Jonathan's journey began in Kingston, Jamaica, where he developed a passion for social impact. After earning his BA in Culture and Communication Studies and a Master's in Public Administration from Cornell University, he joined the World Human Accountability Organization as a Partnership

MEN
LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

JONATHON CUMMINGS

From small town to big ideas
and global impact



Manager, building a strong network within the UN and NGOs.

Today, his business portfolio spans both public and private sectors, with a focus on strategic partnerships, alliance management, and global stakeholder engagement. At Deloitte, he manages the alliance relationship with Cisco, driving go-to-market strategies, joint account opportunities, and investment requests for growth.

Additionally, his international experience includes steering committees with the UN, organizing global events, and advocating for sustainable development. One key example is his work with the UN Alliance of NGOs & CSOs for South-South Cooperation. As a Steering Committee Member since 2018, Jonathan has represented over 500 non-profit and civil society organizations globally, facilitating stakeholder meetings with UN representatives from various countries.

What is the source of his deep inspiration, we wonder. “My inspiration comes from a desire to create a legacy that empowers future generations, especially those from underrepresented communities like my own in Jamaica. I’ve always been driven by the belief that access to opportunity and collaboration can change lives and shape the future. This fuels my work in alliance management and international affairs, where I strive to build partnerships that focus on sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation. My goal is

to continue expanding my impact, leveraging global networks to create pathways for others, and ensuring that future leaders are equipped to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.”

One of Jonathon’s key strengths is his ability to build meaningful relationships across sectors and cultures, which has been crucial in driving successful partnerships and navigating complex international landscapes. He also excels in strategic communication, bringing clarity and alignment to large-scale initiatives.

However, he’s learned that being extensively involved in so many areas can sometimes stretch his focus. This has taught him the importance of delegation and trusting his team. “I now prioritize time management, ensuring that I set clear boundaries between work, family, and social circles. Being from Jamaica, my roots keep me grounded, and I make it a point to stay connected with my community and loved ones. I’ve also learned the importance of self-care — whether it’s through exercise, mindfulness, or simply unplugging from technology.”

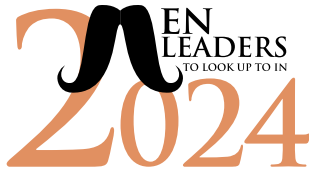
A holistic leader, Jonathan’s collaborative and inclusive leadership style is grounded in the belief that the best ideas often emerge through collective effort. He strives to empower his teams by fostering an environment where diverse perspectives are valued, and every individual feels heard. Above all, he leads by example with transparency and integrity, ensuring that trust is at the core of all interactions.



A business leader, mentor, public speaker, and humanitarian, Jonathan brings his warmth and acumen to all his endeavours and transforms people and projects for the better. Leaving us with a little piece of wisdom, he sums up: “The world is constantly evolving, and the ability to adapt is crucial for success. Also, your network is one of your most valuable assets. Collaborate with peers, seek mentors, and be open to learning from others. The connections you make can lead to unexpected opportunities and collaborations, both personally and professionally.”

Jonathan’s roll of honour:

1. 2024 Business Elite’s 40 under 40 Awardee – Recognized for leadership and impact in the business sector.
2. 2024 Influencer Award – Honored by Marketing 2.0 for significant contributions to marketing and strategic partnerships.
3. 2023 Outstanding Leadership Award – Awarded by Marketing 2.0 for excellence in leadership and community engagement.
4. ForbesBLK Certificate of Membership (2023) – Recognized for contributions to the Black business community.
5. Forbes for the Culture Certificate of Acceptance (2022) – Acknowledged for commitment to diversity and inclusion in business.
6. Speaker at the House of Lords (2021) – Presented insights on global cooperation and sustainable development.
7. Speaker at the United Nations General Assembly (2017) – Shared perspectives on international policy and civil society engagement.



NARRAIN PRITHVI DHARUMAN

Forging his passion in TMT (Technology, Media & Telecom) and SystemC Modeling in Semiconductor Industry.



Narrain Prithvi Dharuman's first mentor never allowed him to succumb to adversity. Instead, he harnessed Narrain's energy to drive growth and innovation as a testament to his strategic insight. This marked the beginning of Narrain's passion in unravelling the mysteries of technology and sharing his knowledge with others.

"I have an insatiable appetite for my profession and particularly to bring some stand-alone technologies within the intricacies of media, telecom, and semiconductor domains. The dynamic nature of the field propels me to innovate ceaselessly focusing more on customer experience," he says.

Today, Narrain is an award-winning Senior Solution Architect at Career Soft Solutions Inc., United States. He has bagged the Best Project and Contributor Award by Infosys, Sandisk(Western Digital) and Wipro Technologies, and has around

15 spot accolades from teams and peers recognizing various team and cross-organizational project contributions.

After almost 2 decades in the field, he remains committed to bringing in variable, innovative, and market attractive technology solutions in the TMT industry (Technology, Media & Telecom) and Semiconductor Industry, and empower others to do the same. "Since my early days, my love for technology and the urge to learn and create transformative impact in the industry made me design some complex architectures and unique technology integrations that brought about change in the highly competitive industry," he says.

Born in Tamil Nadu, India, Narrain is the first graduate in his family with a Bachelor's in Engineering from University of Madras and a Master's in Technology from National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli. The grassroot of his career started with mid and large size



IT organizations in India like Wipro, Infosys, and SanDisk that later provided him great opportunities in Europe and USA. Relocating to the US opened a multitude of doors and in 2021, he joined Career Soft Solutions Inc., USA.

He is now involved in projects to develop Content Delivery Network platforms for the large media, telecommunication and SystemC NAND Flash Memory, Digital Image Processing and Network on Chip Projects in semiconductor industry. He has specialized in IT architecture and the design of media, network contents and Semiconductor Industry that employ decision frameworks and cutting-edge technologies.

The projects he has worked on have bolstered security and ensured unobtrusive user experience. He plays an instrumental role at every stage of IT development, from planning and designing to data migration, deployment, and user adoption.

Yet, he makes for a great team player and lead. Not one to follow a set leadership style, Narrain believes that every team member is unique and has different strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, he adapts his leadership style to suit each team member's needs and preferences. For instance, he uses a coaching style of leadership for team members who are new and need guidance and support. On the other hand, he uses a delegating style of leadership for those who are experienced, capable of handling tasks independently, and take ownership. Effective delegation

provides a significant impact on the team's performance, leading to successful leadership initiatives.

"I am a contributor, I guide and motivate the team also to be a contributor. I ensure that I am there, I care, and I share. I am a collaborator with a clear view. That has always allowed people to support my views."

How does he overcome the challenges, we ask him. "I believe in striking a balance through my day to day life. I practice by scheduling and defining my objectives in every endeavour possible. This really is liberating, allowing me to focus on the most important 'to do's', 'tasks' and 'fulfilling obligations'. I believe that effective time management and adapting to change act as a key to balance the challenges and avoid burnout, both at work and in personal life."

In his 'me time', Narrain disconnects himself from this fast moving life and takes a break on Sundays. His spirit finds energy through gardening in nature. A relentless seeker of knowledge, he also reads technology books and listens to audiobooks. It enables him to start the week and look at things with a fresh perspective.

Aware of the intricacies of the digital world, Narrain feels every individual should have complete awareness of their work and the knack to influence others, which is a challenging but essential trait. Giving feedback, reinforcing people, learning to accept feedback, learning when to speak up, and effective delegation, gives a smooth road plan and execute work.

However, he reserves his best suggestion for facing failure: "We need to look at failure simply as the opportunity to start over again. Taking risks isn't always as easy as it sounds, but embracing the fact that it is a part of everyday work helped me to make some feisty decisions which quite evidently paid off. So learn to make mistakes, but do not be embarrassed by it, learn from them and emerge stronger."





Having dabbled in the finance industry for over 2 decades, the dynamic Omer Rahi has been working in the financial sector in the Middle East, gaining a wealth of experience while contributing to one of the world's largest foreign financial institutions, combined with a passion for mentoring and personal growth.

As the Head of Multinational Coverage - Middle East, Omer leads strategic growth initiatives in institutions across the region, focusing on high-value deal origination, cross-border business, and team leadership. His expertise spans corporate banking, investment banking, transaction banking, financing, and driving profitability across the region.

Also, an athlete, coach, and NLP practitioner, Omer embodies resilience, innovation, delayed gratification, and the drive to inspire others. "I thrive on turning challenges into

opportunities, always keeping an eye on the prize and ensuring long-term success. I focus my energy on controlling the controllable, staying grounded in what is within my circle of influence. In everything I do, I believe in putting my best foot forward, trusting the process and letting my actions speak louder than words," he says.

From starting his career in Pakistan to holding leadership roles in the Middle East, Omer's journey has been defined by growth, adaptability, and dedication. As a child and teenager, he was extremely shy, had limited beliefs, and struggled being around people. He has since worked hard on self-development, embracing challenges and stepping outside his comfort zone.

"One of the most transformative lessons I've learned is the power of delayed gratification — the ability to sacrifice short-term comforts for long-term rewards. Delayed

MEN
LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

OMER RAHI

Cultivating success in Banking and Finance while championing wellness and empowering others through mentorship



gratification has taught me patience, resilience, and the value of playing the long game, allowing me to reap the rewards of my efforts over time.”

Omer climbed the ladder of success one rung at a time, fueled by a passion for continuous learning and self-improvement. Alongside his professional accomplishments, his love for physical training and personal development has shaped him into the person he is today. His strengths include strategic thinking, discipline, taking on challenges, and a strong belief in achieving anything he sets his mind to.

Proud to acknowledge his father's contribution to his journey, Omer says, “My father has been my greatest inspiration. His unwavering values, work ethic, and humility have shaped my approach to life and work. His example taught me to lead with integrity, stay grounded, and strive for excellence.”

All of which Omer has achieved with aplomb:

- Represented his country at global forums and events.
- Champion of self-development as the greatest personal asset.
- Member of a world champion dragon boat paddling team, fitness enthusiast, an avid golfer.
- Advocate of a disciplined, healthy lifestyle, which drives personal and professional growth.
- Passionate watch collector, traveler, and obsessed on taking new challenges.

Omer feels balance comes from self-awareness, embracing feedback, and focusing energy where it matters most. He ensures clear boundaries between work and personal time, dedicating moments to his family, hobbies, and personal growth.

For Omer, life is about have a greater purpose than following a routine. He believes true fulfillment comes from looking beyond yourself—giving, helping, and making a positive difference in the lives of others. Whether it's building meaningful connections, supporting someone's growth, or finding ways to give back, Omer encourages aligning your work and passions with a greater purpose. It's not just about what you achieve but how you uplift those around you.

Mindfulness and structured planning keep him aligned with his priorities. He wakes up daily before 5 am to work on himself physically, spiritually, and intellectually before starting work. By the time he begins his day, he's already hit the ground running, feeling accomplished and ready to tackle any challenge.

A leader in thought and action, Omer believes in giving his team enough space to deliver and even make mistakes. “Failure and making mistakes is the best teacher - provided you learn from them. After all, you can't make an omelet without breaking a few eggs. Leadership is about inspiring others to achieve their best, fostering collaboration, and leading by example. It also

means taking accountability and focusing on what's within your control, ensuring that energy is directed where it makes the greatest impact.”

Omer aspires to make a meaningful impact by mentoring and coaching future leaders, helping them unlock their potential and achieve their dreams. “I wish to lead from the front and inspire people to follow the

same journey as me. I aim to give back by sharing my knowledge, experiences, and insights, creating opportunities for others to grow. Professionally, I strive to drive innovation and bring efficiency in financial services and build sustainable, inclusive systems. While personally, I am committed to promoting a lifestyle of mental and physical fitness, emphasizing discipline, resilience, and balance.”

Omer's ultimate goal is to inspire others to lead fulfilling lives and leave a legacy of positive change. To sum it up, he leaves us with his favourite quote by Rob Dial - 'Make it your mission to make someone else's day better!'



EN
LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

**PRAVIN
SANKHWAR**
Engineering for Decarbonization



At international conferences, Pravin Sankhwar captivated audiences with his insights on EV charging infrastructure for gasoline stations and the application of floating solar photovoltaic systems. He demonstrated how solar panels on lakes could reduce water evaporation and generate clean energy, addressing critical global challenges. His concepts for converting gasoline stations into EV charging hubs offered practical solutions for electrification. The applause he received wasn't just for his ideas but for his ability to blend innovation, engineering excellence, and impactful solutions in the field of decarbonization.

Pravin Sankhwar, a visionary in electrical engineering, has made significant contributions to EV charging infrastructure, renewable energy, and electrical power distribution systems. A graduate of the prestigious Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur, he began his career at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, managing plant engineering operations and design projects. "Those early years taught me precision and the potential of

engineering to drive real-world change," he reflects. To further his expertise, he pursued a master's degree in Electrical Engineering at Michigan Technological University, paving the way for a transformative career in advanced power engineering.

His career is marked by transformative projects that blend engineering innovation with sustainability. Being a licensed Professional Engineer and certified professional by US Green Building Council and the International Code Council, he has led large-scale infrastructure projects, designed energy-efficient lighting systems, and developed advanced EV charging concepts. A sought-after speaker at global conferences, he shares insights on electrification and renewable energy. "Clean energy transitions aren't just about technology," he says. "They're about creating practical, scalable, and impactful systems."

Pravin's innovative work in EV charging systems, energy management, smart grid integration, and solar photovoltaics stands out. His research demonstrates how: EV chargers integrate with

power grids, home energy management systems conserves energy, and floating solar panels generate clean energy while enhancing ecosystems. He has extensively studied rising energy demands from EV transitions in the US, providing 30-year plans for utilities and governments. His blend of technical expertise and environmental focus has earned him global recognition, including the 2024 Global Recognition Award and the Titan Award for Electrical Engineering.

Despite his technical achievements, Pravin is far from being just an electrical engineer. He is also a poet, a mentor, and an advocate for sustainability. His published poetry reflects his love for nature and his commitment to preserving it. "Poetry is my motivator and gives me balance," he says. "It reminds me why I do what I do—to protect the environment that inspires me." In his personal time, Pravin meditates, spends time outdoors, and engages in charitable activities. He also takes pride in parenting his young children, finding joy in their curiosity and creativity. "Family time keeps me grounded," he shares. "It's the foundation that allows me to push boundaries in my work."

Pravin's leadership style is transformational and equally rooted in collaboration and empowerment. Whether guiding a team of engineers or mentoring young professionals, he fosters an environment where ideas thrive, and innovation flourishes. "Leadership isn't about just managing," he explains. "It's about enabling others to succeed and creating a

shared vision for the future." Colleagues often seek his advice, valuing his ability to offer constructive feedback and guide complex projects to successful outcomes.

His inspiration comes from a deeply personal place. "Life is short; in here, we grow short like life so short," he says, quoting his own poetry. This philosophy drives his relentless pursuit of excellence and his commitment to creating solutions that benefit both people and the planet. His goals revolve around improving safety practices in engineering, advancing energy efficiency, and contributing to sustainable development. "Engineering excellence isn't optional," he says. "It's the foundation for a better future."

To aspiring engineers and innovators, Pravin offers this advice: "Start with a small initiative today, and it can lead to a big impact for the next generation. Perform a literature review, brainstorm, and seek help from experts. Every great solution begins with curiosity." He encourages young professionals to explore electric vehicle charging systems, renewable energy systems, smart grids, and energy management applications, emphasizing that even modest efforts can drive innovations and transformative change.

As he prepares to speak at the Energy Summit 2025 in Boston, where he will address vehicle-to-grid integration challenges, Pravin remains focused on bridging the gap between technology and sustainability. "The world is changing fast, and engineers have a crucial role to play," he says. "It's our responsibility to lead decarbonization."



Pravin Sankhwar's story is not just about engineering projects and research—it's about purpose and passion. Whether he's designing systems that power cities or composing poetry that celebrates nature, he brings a unique blend of technical brilliance and humanity to everything he does. For Pravin, engineering isn't just a profession; it's a way to build a better world. "The future depends on the ideas we create today," he says. And with Pravin leading the charge, that future looks brighter than ever.



MEN
LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

PRAYAS LOHALEKAR

Forging the Future with
Curiosity and Resilience

Megastructures on National Geographic, marveling at the intricacies of technology and engineering. “I’ve always been curious about the inner workings of things,” he recalls. “Seeing how everyday objects and massive structures were built ignited something in me—a desire to understand the world through technology.”

Prayas's early curiosity, nurtured by his parents' unwavering support, set the stage for his educational journey. Despite coming from a middle-class background

with limited financial resources, his parents made tremendous sacrifices to support his dream of studying abroad. “My parents went above and beyond to make it possible,” Prayas reflects. “Pursuing an education in the U.S. was financially out of reach, but they believed in my potential and did everything they could to help me achieve it.”

In 2008, at just 17, Prayas moved to the U.S. to study Computer Science at the State University of New York

Prayas Lohalekar's life has been shaped by an unwavering curiosity, remarkable resilience, and a vision for innovation. From his modest beginnings in India to a leadership role in the U.S. tech industry, his journey is a testament to his determination and the belief that challenges are simply opportunities in disguise.

Growing up in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, Prayas was always fascinated by how things worked. As a child, he spent hours watching shows like How It's Made and



(SUNY) in upstate New York. “The shift was culturally and academically challenging,” he admits. “But what drew me to SUNY was the balance between theoretical knowledge and practical, hands-on learning. I realized that innovation happens when you can apply what you’ve learned to solve real-world problems.”

After graduating in 2012, Prayas’s career began with a role as a Business Systems Analyst in the insurance sector. Here, he first saw how technology could bridge the gap between business needs and operational efficiency. His natural curiosity and ability to think beyond the surface propelled him forward, and soon, he transitioned into more senior project management roles.

Over the years, Prayas’s career spanned multiple industries—insurance, healthcare, and technology consulting—as he moved across Illinois, Wisconsin, New Jersey, and Maryland and ultimately settled in the NY/NJ metro area. He took on increasing responsibility in each role, moving from business analysis to program management and eventually into strategic technology leadership. His work in the healthcare industry, particularly with a Fortune 10 health insurance company, was a turning point. “The healthcare sector showed me how technology could make a real difference, not just in terms of efficiency but in improving patient outcomes,” he explains.

Today, as Director of Technology Strategy,

Prayas leads innovation in technology consulting, helping businesses navigate digital transformation. “At this stage, it’s not just about technology—about vision. You have to see the bigger picture and understand how the right technological solutions can drive long-term growth and efficiency,” he says.

Prayas’s professional philosophy has also been shaped by his passions, particularly his love for Formula 1 racing. Since 2009, he has been an avid fan of Red Bull Racing and Sebastian Vettel, whose rise from underdog to world champion resonated deeply with him. “Watching Vettel defy expectations and win his first championship taught me the importance of trusting the process,” he reflects. “Like in F1, success in life and career doesn’t always come instantly—you must believe in yourself and stay the course.”

This mindset has carried Prayas through various personal challenges, including financial struggles, health issues, and other setbacks. “Life is never a straight path,” he says. “It’s how you respond to setbacks that define you. The tough times have shaped me into who I am today, giving me the strength to keep pushing forward.”

To counter the demands of his high-stakes career, Prayas has embraced weightlifting to stay healthy and manage stress. “Lifting weights isn’t just about staying fit—it’s about maintaining mental clarity,” he explains. “In tech, you spend so much time behind a desk,

and it’s easy to let that affect your health. Weightlifting helps me stay focused and energized, allowing me to bring my best self to work.”

Despite his success, Prayas remains committed to continuous learning, holding 12 industry certifications to stay at the forefront of technology. “The moment you stop learning is when you start falling behind,” he says. “Tech evolves too quickly to get comfortable—you must keep adapting.” This commitment to learning and staying updated in the field of technology is a

testament to his dedication and adaptability.

Looking to the future, Prayas is resolutely focused on driving meaningful innovation that has a lasting impact. “Technology should solve real problems and improve life for people,” he says. “It’s not about flashy solutions—it’s about creating practical, scalable, and sustainable systems.” His commitment to this vision for the future is inspiring, and it reassures the audience that Prayas’s work will always be guided by a desire to make a real difference.

Prayas’s journey—from a curious boy watching Nat Geo documentaries to a leader shaping the future of technology—serves as a reminder that with the right mindset, no challenge is insurmountable. As he continues to push boundaries professionally and personally, one thing remains clear: his story is far from over, and the best is yet to come.



MEN
LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
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RAHUL GAJRIA

Leading the AI-Driven Security Frontier

In the rapidly evolving field of AI-driven security, Rahul Gajria stands out as a leader who values research, collaboration, and continuous learning. He's driven by a desire to build a more secure digital future for everyone, and he recognizes that this requires constant innovation and a willingness to embrace new ideas. His journey is an inspiring example of how dedication, expertise, and a collaborative spirit can push the boundaries of what's possible and drive positive change in the digital age.

Cultivating a Researcher's Mindset

Rahul's journey into the world of technology was sparked

by a key realization: even the most advanced systems falter without the right foundation. "The core problem isn't always the most sophisticated attack," he reflects. "It's the failure to address the fundamentals." This insight became the foundation of his career, urging him to dive deeper into the world of cybersecurity. Through advanced studies at Stanford and Carnegie Mellon, he was trained by some of the brightest minds in the industry, cultivating a researcher's mindset and gaining the technical expertise that would shape his approach to security.

Rahul's method wasn't to simply follow trends— he



actively questioned, dissected, identified weakness, and developed innovative solutions. He adopted the mindset of a researcher, always exploring new ways to solve old problems and refining the strategies that had come before him.

Building a Fortress at Adobe

At Adobe, Rahul was tasked with building a robust cybersecurity program for a diverse suite of products. As a founding member of the cloud security team, he was responsible for making high-stakes decisions every

day. What set him apart was his ability to think like an attacker—anticipating the next move, identifying weaknesses, and neutralizing potential threats before they could cause harm.

A key achievement at Adobe was his use of AI to automate threat detection. These solutions didn't just protect Adobe's products but embodied his vision of building trust in a digital world where that trust is often fragile. "By leveraging AI, we can not only detect patterns and threats faster but also make the process more accurate, which helps us stay ahead of evolving attacks," he explains. His systems didn't simply block attacks—they also illuminated the pathways attackers used, providing a deeper understanding of the threat landscape. "It's important to understand the origins of an attack, not just its impact," Rahul says.

Beyond the Boardroom: The Mentor

Rahul's influence extends beyond Adobe. He mentors rising cybersecurity startups, guiding them through the complexities of innovation and business strategy. His mentorship has profoundly influenced the security industry, enabling startups to refine their solutions now pivotal in identity and data security. His expertise is invaluable to these organizations, who rely on his knowledge to safeguard their operations.

"Mentorship is more than sharing knowledge," Rahul believes. "It's about empowering others to make their own discoveries and helping them grow." He views

leadership as a collaborative process, where the focus is not on having all the answers but on asking the right questions and fostering an environment of teamwork. Through this, Rahul has helped shape the next generation of cybersecurity leaders, instilling in them the importance of both technical skills and emotional intelligence.

The Personal Side of Leadership

What truly sets Rahul apart in his leadership style is his deep sense of empathy. He understands that people—not just systems—are at the heart of cybersecurity. His approach is not simply about protecting the digital world; it's about supporting the people who rely on it. "Empathy is essential," he says. "It's what keeps me

grounded in my work." Yet, Rahul's journey hasn't been without its challenges. His dedication to his work at times led him to lose sight of his personal well-being. "I got so immersed in my work that I neglected self-care," he admits. Through introspection, he learned the importance of setting boundaries and taking time to recharge. Cooking, snowboarding, and spending time with his loved ones have become essential practices for maintaining balance in his life.

Lessons for the Next Generation

For the next generation of cybersecurity professionals, Rahul's story is a reminder that the field is not just about technical expertise. It is, at its core, a deeply human endeavor. "Every problem is an opportunity to innovate,"

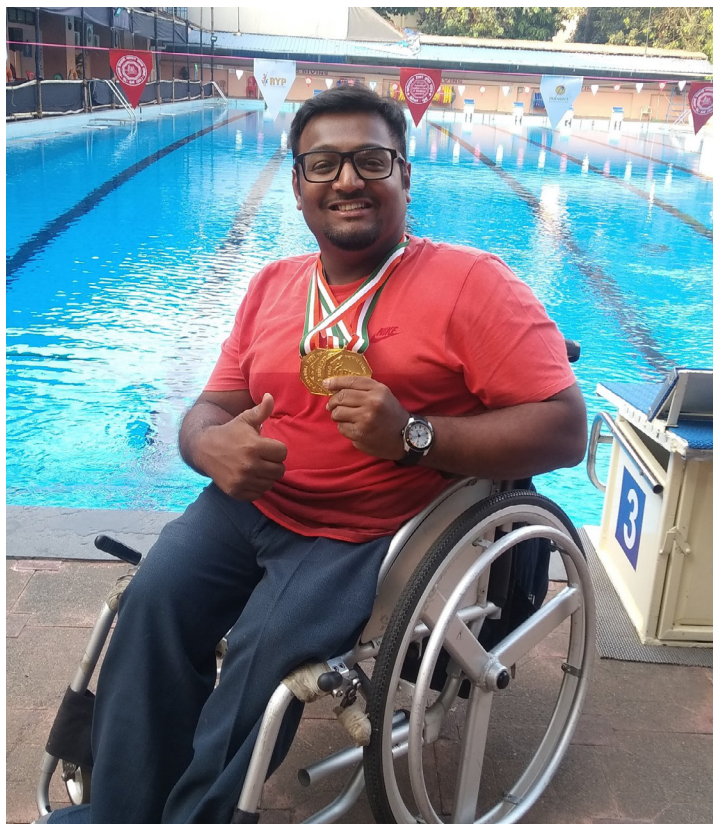
Rahul shares. "Every connection is a chance to build something meaningful." He encourages young leaders to embrace curiosity, empathy, and resilience, and to never stop learning. By taking this approach, they can both tackle cybersecurity challenges and build stronger, more connected communities.

A Legacy in Progress

Rahul's work bridges technology and humanity, whether through mentoring startups, creating AI-driven security solutions, or providing transformative guidance. His journey embodies purpose, resilience, and innovation. Rahul believes that empathy, collaboration, and continuous growth can solve complex problems—not just in cybersecurity, but in every aspect of life.

As Rahul continues his path, one thing is certain: his legacy will go beyond securing systems. He is building trust in a world where trust is scarce—creating solutions that not only safeguard the digital world but also make it a better, more compassionate place.





MEN
LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

RAHUL RAMUGADE

Defying Odds and Defining Strength

“It is not the disability that defines you; it’s how you deal with the challenges the disability presents you with.” This quote by Jim Abbott, the legendary one-handed baseball player, mirrors the life of Rahul Ramugade, a trailblazer from Mumbai who has turned his challenges into stepping stones.

A national para-swimmer, captain of the Mumbai Wheelchair Cricket Team, a player for the Indian Wheelchair Cricket Team, and an adventure sports enthusiast, Rahul’s story is one of unyielding resilience and a testament to the power of determination. Despite being affected by polio in both legs, Rahul has redefined what it means to break barriers and thrive against all odds.

From Polio to Pride

Rahul’s journey began in a middle-class Maharashtrian

family in Mumbai. At just one year old, his legs were paralyzed by polio. Despite the setback, his parents ensured he received timely treatments and therapy. While these efforts couldn’t restore his mobility, they built his resilience. His education began at SEC Day School in Santacruz, a school

for physically challenged children, where he was introduced to swimming—a sport that would later bring him state-level recognition. Later, he joined BPM High School in Khar, where his teachers ensured he had access to an inclusive education, inspiring his belief that support and opportunity can change lives.

A Cricketing Crusader

In a cricket-obsessed nation like India, Rahul found his love for the game early on, playing cricket on a skateboard as a child. Years later, this



passion turned into a serious pursuit when he joined the Indian Wheelchair Cricket Team in 2017. As the captain of the Mumbai Wheelchair Cricket Team, he has led his squad to multiple victories in domestic tournaments. Internationally, Rahul has represented India in events such as the Wheelchair Cricket Asia Cup 2019, where the team finished as runners-up.

From securing wins at the Indian Wheelchair Premier League to clinching the Sardar Patel Unity Cup in 2022, Rahul's cricketing journey is marked by numerous accolades. "Cricket isn't just a sport for me—it's my passion, my purpose, and my platform to inspire others," says Rahul.

Making Waves in Swimming

Rahul's talents are not confined to cricket alone. As a para-swimmer, he has earned 15 state-level medals, including eight golds. His swimming career began when he was denied entry to a local pool due to his disability—a rejection that only strengthened his resolve. "That denial became my fuel," Rahul recalls. Today, he stands as a champion who has not only competed but excelled in state and national championships, proving that no barrier is insurmountable.

Adventures Beyond Boundaries

Rahul's adventurous spirit has taken him beyond the confines of conventional sports. He has participated in para-motoring events in Chandigarh, completed marathons in Mumbai and Pune on his wheelchair, and explored scuba diving in the Andaman Islands. Recently, he trained



under ex-special forces scuba instructors in Pondicherry and now has skydiving on his bucket list. "Adventure sports remind me that limitations exist only in the mind," he says, exemplifying his unrelenting zest for life.

Empowering Others: Founder of Wheelchair Sports Association Mumbai

In 2020, Rahul co-founded the Wheelchair Sports Association Mumbai to create awareness about sports for people with disabilities and to support athletes in their journey. The association provides resources for training, equipment, and travel, enabling players to represent their state and country in wheelchair cricket, basketball, handball, and more. "Our work is powered by voluntary donors and CSR initiatives, as government support remains a distant dream," Rahul explains.

Challenges with Recognition

Despite his success, Rahul and many like him face a lack of institutional support. While the BCCI announced a Differently-Abled Cricket Committee in 2021, initiatives like wheelchair cricket are yet to be integrated into mainstream tournaments. "Players like us need tournaments similar to the Ranji Trophy or Vijay Hazare Trophy to gain recognition and grow the sport," Rahul emphasizes. His advocacy for the formation of a Differently-Abled Cricket Committee within the Mumbai Cricket Association is ongoing but met with silence—a reflection of the struggles that differently-abled athletes face in India.

A Beacon of Inspiration

Rahul's contributions have earned him numerous awards, including the "Mumbai Mayor Award" for para-swimming, the "Powerful Personality of the

Year" award for excellence in sports, and the "Sports Nasha Young Sports Person Award." He has also served as a brand promoter for initiatives like Enable Travel, Easy Move, and Accessibility Redefined, furthering his advocacy for accessibility and inclusion.

Through his YouTube channel, Rahul On Wheels, he shares his journey and promotes awareness about disability, accessibility, and inclusion. His story has been widely covered by media outlets like Doordarshan, ABP Majha, and IndiaTimes, inspiring countless individuals to embrace their abilities and strive for success.

A Message to Society

Rahul's message is simple yet profound: "As persons with disabilities, we don't need sympathy; we need inclusion and equal opportunities. With hard work and talent, we can achieve anything."

MEN
LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

RAJESH BASA

Redefining Success in His Own
Terms Through Perseverance



With over 22 years of experience, Rajesh Basa has been one of the pioneering minds in global technology leadership, where he has been instrumental in advancing critical global industries, including cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. With technical experience shaping the enterprises he has worked for, he is one of the few people whose each action results in a domino effect of success.

Growing up in a small rural village called Bantumilli in Andhra Pradesh, India, Rajesh was surrounded by a close-knit community that instilled a strong sense of determination and a deep appreciation for education and innovation as pathways to success. He subsequently got admission to the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, where he gained a Master's in Computer Science and Engineering.

Professionally, he began working for globally renowned

technology companies such as HP, Oracle, Yahoo, and Microsoft India, where he became equipped with a vast reservoir of knowledge and experience with technology. In 2015, he moved to the United States to join Microsoft, where he contributed to advancing enterprise solutions in database management and cloud-based identity systems. He has also played a pivotal role at Dell Technologies and Oracle, where he has continued to drive innovation in cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. He says, "These contributions have enabled me to influence enterprise-grade solutions critical to Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, and national priorities."

He mentions that his goals are driven by a passion for innovation, a commitment to advancing technology, and a desire to make meaningful contributions to society. Professionally, his overarching objective is to lead groundbreaking advancements in cloud computing,



artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity—fields that have the potential to transform industries, strengthen global infrastructure, and address critical challenges such as data security and resource optimization.

He continues, "I strive to balance professional excellence and giving back to the community. This includes sharing my knowledge through memberships in esteemed organizations like IEEE, ACM, and Sigma Xi and engaging in initiatives that promote education and technical literacy, particularly in underserved areas."

Rajesh feels his inspiration comes from his humble beginnings and an enduring passion for solving complex problems through technology. His childhood and gaining fruitful knowledge in IIT, Guwahati, which he describes as a turning point in his life, were some stepping stones in his journey of perseverance. He says, "Throughout my career, I have been inspired by the vision of using technology to address critical global challenges. Whether it's developing enterprise-scale solutions at Microsoft, driving cloud infrastructure innovations at Oracle, or advancing AI-driven platforms at Dell Technologies, my motivation has always been to create technologies that empower organizations, improve lives, and contribute to national and global priorities."

Rajesh describes leadership as a dynamic and multifaceted quality that involves guiding, inspiring, and empowering individuals or teams to achieve shared goals while fostering collaboration, innovation,

and growth. True leadership goes beyond authority—it is about service, vision, and accountability. He mentions, "I believe leadership begins with a clear vision that aligns with the organization's mission and values. A great leader must articulate this vision compellingly, ensuring every team member understands their role in achieving it."

Rajesh has authored three patents in cloud computing, focusing on cloud infrastructure, resource management, and system optimization. These patents have set benchmarks in the industry for innovative cloud technology solutions. These include:

1. System and method for compartment quotas in a cloud infrastructure environment.
2. System and method for service limit increase for a multi-tenant cloud infrastructure environment.
3. Method and system to automate device management user interface hosting of devices, assets, and appliances.

His career achievements are underscored by prestigious accolades, including the Microsoft Gold Star Award, the Titan Business and Innovation Awards – Platinum Recognition, the Globee Award for Executive of the Year in Cloud Computing, SaaS, and Information Technology, and the Dell Gamechanger Awards. He also has memberships in elite organizations such as IETE (Fellow), IEEE (Senior Member), ACM, Sigma Xi (Full Member), and the Throws Fellowship reflect his commitment to advancing scientific and technological excellence.



He shares a message with the readers, saying, "For those aspiring to make an impact in their respective fields, remember that success is not just about individual achievements but collaboration, mentorship, and creating value for others. True fulfillment comes when you use your skills to contribute to the betterment of your community, industry, or the world at large. I also encourage you to stay curious. Whether diving into emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, cloud computing, or blockchain, or exploring entirely new domains, curiosity keeps you relevant and adaptable in a fast-paced world."

LOUD OBSESSION

Why is Oud becoming so famous?



Dark, mysterious, woody, complex and smokey are some of the words that people have used to describe the mellifluous scent of the enigmatic oud, which is taking over the world of perfumes like a raging fire.

Also known as agarwood, this scent is derived from the wood of the Aquilaria tree, which is found mostly in Southeast Asia, India, and Bangladesh. Its exclusivity lies in the fact that its extraction process can take many years, making it one of the most expensive natural ingredients. As the phrase goes, "All good things take time" similarly, for oud as well, the longer it is left to develop, the more its complexity grows, making it even more intense and strong.

India's northeast is one place with many oud plantations where one can see how this fragrance is made, which starts from the process when the tree goes into a self-defence mode when injured by outside forces like birds or storms, and a fungus or mould grows on it. In hindsight, the tree produces enzymes in order to cut off the fungus, and the enzyme keeps flowing through the tree for over 15-20 years, resulting in a dark resin-like liquid which gets extracted and converted into oud wood chips or oud oil.

Due to this painstaking process, its hefty price is

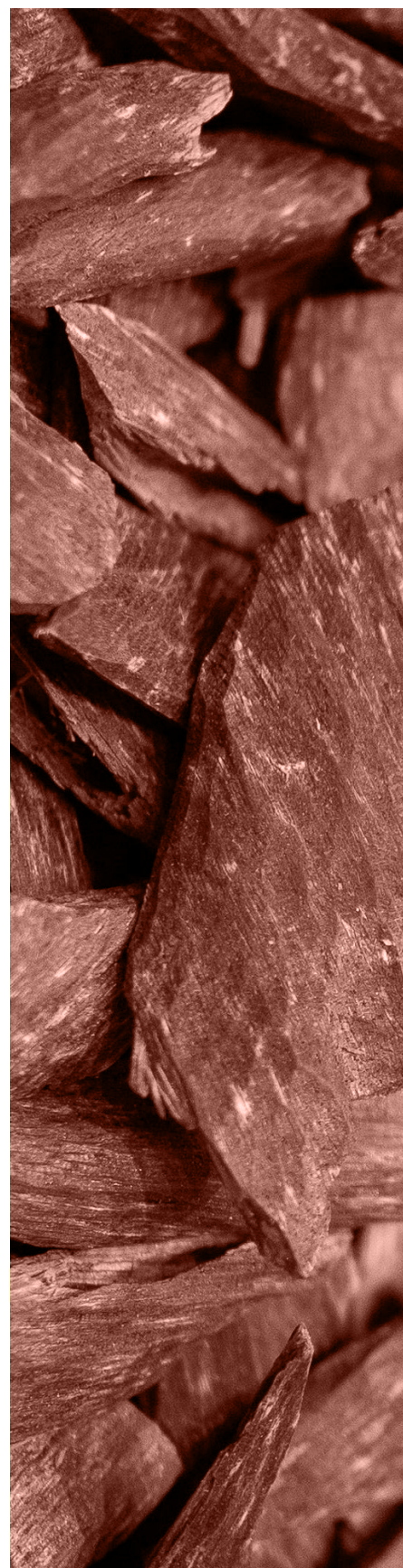
justifiable, and the reason behind its ongoing craze among customers is that there is no perfume brand that has not used this ingredient to its benefit. Some use a pre-dominant oud scent or combine it with other ingredients to make the most unique fragrance through the virtue of permutation and combination. Many uses include adding amber, saffron, rose and other earthy fragrances to give it an even richer and decadent scent.

Its history is just as fascinating as its rich aroma, which finds its roots in the heritage of the Middle East and Asia, which is now propelled into global stardom with big international brands selling it as a centrepiece attraction for customers who have been enamoured by the scent. Many historians believe that oud has been around for thousands of years, used in rituals, perfumes, and more, and can be considered sacred for some communities. Some cultures in the Middle East used oud to infuse clothes or use it as incense to make the home smell heavenly.

In order to revolutionise the perfume industry and find a new champion ingredient, Tom Ford went into a quest to take their perfumes to the next level. They launched their infamous Oud Wood in 2007 which started a chain reaction with other brands that now the oud scent has trickled down to almost everything.

The beauty of oud is that it is not instantly likeable for some, and for a few people, it is a love affair at the first whiff. People have polarised opinions, and some feel that it is an acquired taste that develops over time. Due to this factor, many brands use different levels of oud in their concoction to please all types of customers and blend it according to their palette. Also known as the 'black gold', this fragrance is surely one of the crowning glories in modern-day perfumery. It can be blended well with fruity, floral, earthy, musky, spicy or fresh notes, which does not make it overpower any one particular scent.

It is also believed to bring positivity, calm, and peace in homes when used as incense, and it is often used in times of prayer and meditation. Its appeal is not just restricted to its scintillating aroma but also the countless stories, traditions and heritage attached to it, which have been passed down through generations. One of its rare qualities is the lingering effect on the skin and mind, which is longer than most ingredients. This is all attributed to its allure and pure luxurious aroma, which is safe to say will linger much longer as its popularity rises by the day.





MEN
LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

RAMAKANTH VANGA

Leading the charge in data
innovation

of building solutions. This experience led him to pursue a Master's at the University of Minnesota Duluth, USA. After graduating, he joined a Silicon Valley startup, where he helped build a product that was acquired twice.

ERP systems for invoice automation. As the industry evolved, he transitioned to a modern data stack, building near real-time data pipelines from multiple source systems into a consolidated data warehouse.

Technically speaking, Ramakanth began his career as an SAP Technical Consultant, building interfaces and integrating SAP with third-party systems. Later on, he utilized QlikView for analytics and developed middleware layers that connected multiple

This shift steered his career towards Data products, where he now focuses on building scalable pipelines to bring disparate data into a single source of truth. This system empowers businesses to make informed decisions while addressing data quality issues

Ramakanth Vanga is a modern Data leader who empowers others and delivers impactful, long-term results. His empathetic leadership, focus on team alignment, and proven track record of success is evidenced by multiple acquisitions in 2020, 2021 and four awards in 2024. Presently, he serves as the Senior Data Architect at Fresh Gravity, San Francisco Bay Area.

Ramakanth's journey demonstrates resilience, adaptability, and a deep understanding of what it takes

to lead and build successful ventures. He has turned early challenges into strengths, using his diverse experiences in both Indian and Silicon Valley startups to drive innovation and collaboration.

Born in India, Ramakanth grew up facing challenges that hindered his early career success. After graduating during a recession, finding a job was difficult, but he eventually joined a startup in Hyderabad. There, leadership believed in him, helping him gain confidence and a 360-degree understanding



by setting standards and fixing bad data at the source. Today, Ramakanth's work revolves around unlocking the full potential of business data and ensuring that decision-makers have access to reliable, actionable insights.

"My goals are to continue pushing the boundaries of what's possible in data architecture and engineering, to build systems that enable smarter business decisions, and to inspire and mentor the next generation of data professionals. Ultimately, I aim to create environments where innovation thrives, and teams are empowered to achieve long-term success."

Watching how innovative solutions can transform businesses and empower people fuel Ramakanth's passion for data-driven problem-solving. Further, the leaders who believed in him during his career inspire him to lead with empathy and purpose.

As a result, his own leadership style is empathetic, collaborative, and goal-oriented. He believes open communication is key — he creates an environment where feedback is encouraged, and everyone feels comfortable sharing their ideas. By fostering a sense of trust and alignment within the team, he's seen firsthand how small, cohesive groups can achieve exceptional results.

A key strength that helps him is adaptability. Ramakanth's ability to pivot from setbacks and embrace new challenges has allowed him to thrive

in evolving industries, and he excels at building data infrastructures that provide valuable insights.

This has beckoned many global laurels, few of which comprise:

- Titan Awards Gold Winner 2024 - Next Gen Technology
- Titan Innovation Awards Gold Winner 2024 - Cloud Technology
- Globee Awards Bronze Winner 2024 - Data Management and Analytics Leadership
- Globee Awards Bronze Winner 2024 - Innovative

Leadership in Technology.

How does he balance a high-powered career with personal life, we ask Ramakanth. He shares that balancing professional and personal life is all about proper planning and clear communication. "I prioritize tasks and set realistic timelines, ensuring both aspects get the attention they need. Planning ahead resolves most challenges, while being upfront about potential delays helps manage expectations and avoid last-minute surprises. At work, I delegate effectively and trust my team, which

allows me to focus on personal time without compromising productivity. This proactive approach creates harmony between work and personal commitments."

In his personal time, Ramakanth loves to unwind by spending time with his two little kids. Their energy and curiosity remind him to stay present and enjoy the small moments. Watching them grow and engaging in their activities takes away all work-related pressure. He also enjoys bike riding, both indoors and outdoors, as it helps him stay active and clear his mind.

A strategic leader, senior IEEE member, and youth mentor, Ramakanth suggests that one must view their career as a marathon, not a sprint. "Success is not always linear — you'll experience highs and lows, but what truly matters is the passion you bring to your work. Great satisfaction comes from doing something you genuinely enjoy, not from the prestige of the company you work for or the latest tech you work on. It's important to find meaning in your daily efforts, remain adaptable to change, and stay resilient through challenges. In the long run, fulfillment will come from the impact you make and the joy you find in your work, not just the title or brand."



MEN
LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

RISHABH SHARMA

From Filmmaker to Data Science Trailblazer

Rishabh Sharma's journey is a remarkable testament to ambition, passion, and an unyielding drive for excellence. Hailing from the small city of Kota, India, Rishabh's path to prominence began in an unexpected arena—filmmaking. With a natural affinity for storytelling, he won several national awards for his short films, showcasing his ability to weave creativity

with powerful narratives. But, as often happens with extraordinary individuals, his story took a fascinating turn. Rishabh soon discovered a new medium through which he could tell impactful stories: data.

Rishabh's evolution from a filmmaker to a trailblazer in data science is nothing short of extraordinary. A transformative moment



occurred when he enrolled in Andrew Ng's renowned machine learning course, igniting his passion for data-driven decision-making. This spark of interest propelled him toward an academic journey that saw him earn an engineering degree from VIT University and later a master's in business analytics and data management from Purdue University, where his academic excellence was further recognized through a partial scholarship.

Upon entering the professional world, Rishabh's brilliance began to shine. Joining PayPal as an analyst, he demonstrated an uncanny ability to solve complex problems and deliver innovative solutions. His work on privacy-first strategies and risk mitigation measures helped secure the financial futures of millions, building trust in digital platforms. Rising rapidly through the ranks, Rishabh soon became a

data scientist at PayPal, playing a pivotal role in developing fraud protection strategies and building tools that complied with GDPR, ensuring people's data was secure and under their control. His work in mitigating fraud saved millions and helped shape PayPal into a global leader in secure digital transactions.

But it was not just technical expertise that marked Rishabh's ascent; it was his ability to marry innovation with practicality. Now, as a Senior Data Scientist at Meta, Rishabh applies advanced statistical modeling, causal inference, and experimentation to help advertisers grow, harnessing the power of data to drive success at an unprecedented scale. His work has had a transformative impact, helping businesses reach new heights and fostering economic growth worldwide. It is a journey that reflects Rishabh's ability to



turn data into powerful tools for business success and social good.

At the heart of Rishabh's professional life is a commitment to mentorship and community. Despite his impressive accomplishments, he is dedicated to giving back, whether through his role as a guest lecturer at prestigious universities such as Duke, Purdue, and the University of Minnesota or by inspiring the next generation of engineers to explore the world of data science. His lectures on causal inference and experimentation have touched countless students, motivating them to push boundaries and think beyond the conventional.

Rishabh's leadership is defined by a unique approach: empowering others through autonomy and instilling a deep sense of ownership. His leadership style is not one of command and control but of encouragement and collaboration. He leads by example, setting high standards and expecting nothing less from his team. His unwavering belief in accountability and continuous learning has created an environment where innovation thrives, and every individual is given the tools and support they need to excel.

In addition to his technical brilliance, Rishabh is a man who understands the importance of balance. He sets clear goals, both in his professional and personal life, ensuring that neither is neglected. He manages the demands of his career while also prioritizing personal growth, whether that's spending time with loved ones

or indulging in his passion for films. Rishabh's love for storytelling, once expressed through the lens of a camera, now finds expression in the intricate language of data, proving that his creative instincts remain as sharp as ever.

In his downtime, Rishabh seeks solace in the world of cinema. As a former short film director, he still finds joy in the quiet, meditative rhythm of slow-paced indie films that delve deep into the human experience. These films, often seen as "boring" by others, are for Rishabh a wellspring of insight into human emotions, cultures, and the complexities of life. It is through this lens that he continues to unwind, blending his love for narrative with a deep intellectual curiosity that knows no bounds.

Rishabh's career is a reflection of what is possible when passion meets perseverance. His professional accolades are numerous: he has been honored with the Change Champion award at PayPal for two consecutive years, recognized for his exceptional contributions to the company's security initiatives. His technical excellence in developing risk mitigation strategies earned him the Spot Twice award, further solidifying his reputation as a leader in his field. Beyond his work in tech, Rishabh's academic excellence was recognized through the Special Achievers Award, given to only the top 0.2% of students for outstanding academic and extracurricular contributions.

Notably, Rishabh has also been recognized for his filmmaking,

winning Best Director and Short Film awards at several national film festivals. His leadership at PayPal extended to his role as India site lead for the Rewards and Recognition program, where he guided a team of eight in recognizing and celebrating the company's top contributors. His achievements continue to inspire those around him, as

he remains deeply committed to both personal and professional growth.

Rishabh's journey is not just one of personal triumph; it is a story of transformation, of one man's ability to harness the power of data to change the world. It is a narrative that inspires others to dream big, work tirelessly, and never stop learning.

As he continues to push the boundaries of what is possible in data science, Rishabh Sharma remains a shining example of what can be achieved through passion, dedication, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.



MEN LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

SAI SHASHANK RASAMALLA

A Legacy of Innovation and Leadership in Technology

Sai Shashank Rasamalla stands as a beacon of inspiration in the ever-evolving world of technology, embodying a harmonious blend of innovation, leadership, and relentless passion. His visionary leadership, underpinned by a deep understanding of both

the technical and human aspects of the industry, has consistently delivered transformative solutions across sectors. With a heart dedicated to empowering others and a mind brimming with creative solutions, Shashank stands as a role model for future leaders, inspiring countless individuals to reach the pinnacle of their



potential and make a lasting impact in the tech space.

Shashank's remarkable journey began over a decade ago, with a spark of curiosity ignited by his academic pursuit of a Bachelor's in Technology from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University and a subsequent Master's in Computer Science from Bradley University. These foundations laid the groundwork for a career marked by ingenuity and unbridled determination.

His initial steps at Farmers Insurance, where he revolutionized the user experience, paved the way for future innovations. Shashank's leadership at JCPenney—where his team's work led to millions in savings and skyrocketing sales—was just the beginning. His journey took on greater

heights at American Express, where he orchestrated the development of applications that elevated customer engagement to unprecedented levels.

Today, as Senior Software Engineering Manager II at Walmart Global Tech, Shashank leads projects that transform the healthcare landscape, all while upholding a legacy of operational excellence and stakeholder collaboration. His work not only enhances patient engagement but also drives significant revenue, proving that his touch is both innovative and impactful.

Shashank's professional achievements speak volumes about his prowess in the field. At Walmart Global Tech, he spearheaded the Patient Self-Check-In Web Application,

reducing patient wait times drastically and increasing clinic traffic. His leadership in the Social Determinants of Health Initiative seamlessly integrated complex systems to support scalable health programs, making waves in multiple locations. Additionally, his command over the Global Integrated Fulfillment system led to the monumental scaling of the Buy Online, Pick Up in Store model from 300 stores to over 4,000 globally.

At American Express, his visionary leadership resulted in a customer engagement tool that boasted an impressive Net Promoter Score (NPS) of 89, while at Farmers Insurance, his work enhanced the user experience, leading to a staggering 5X increase in conversion rates. His ability to lead with vision and implement with precision has earned him accolades and recognition in every organization he has touched.

Shashank's inspiration is drawn from both personal and professional realms—rooted in his fascination with technology's potential to solve real-world problems and improve lives. Guided by his mentors and the ever-evolving technological landscape, he approaches leadership with empathy, collaboration, and integrity. His vision is not just to lead but to inspire, foster innovation, and create solutions that make a meaningful difference. Looking forward, Shashank's goals encompass driving innovation, nurturing future leaders, and continuously adapting to the fast-paced world of technology.

Shashank's strengths are vast, ranging from his technical expertise to his inspirational leadership. However, Shashank humbly acknowledges his perfectionism and occasional difficulty delegating tasks as areas of growth. By working to trust his team more and setting clear deadlines, he continues to evolve as a leader. His story of balancing strengths and weaknesses is a learning playground for others, showcasing that self-awareness and growth are lifelong endeavors.

Amidst the complexities of leading in the tech world, Shashank manages to balance his professional and personal life through clear goal-setting, dedicated work hours, physical activity, mindfulness practices, and constant self-evaluation. He creates a harmonious rhythm in his life, ensuring that he excels both in the boardroom and at home.

When not revolutionizing the tech space, Shashank finds solace in activities that recharge his spirit. Be it running, cycling, or hitting the gym, he indulges in physical activity to stay fit and manage stress. He also delights in discovering new places, immersing himself in different cultures, and recharging his creativity through travel. As a soccer enthusiast and a lover of cinema, Shashank spends his downtime watching soccer matches and enjoying diverse genres of film, finding peace in these small yet fulfilling moments.

Shashank believes in empowering his team members to take ownership of their work while maintaining a sharp focus on results. His

leadership is one that mentors, develops, and nurtures talent, creating a culture of continuous learning and innovation.

To those embarking on their journeys, Shashank offers words of wisdom: Embrace growth, prioritize collaboration, lead with empathy, and stay true to your values. Growth, he reminds us, is a continuous journey—a process of learning, unlearning, and evolving. By staying open to new ideas, listening to others, and nurturing well-

being alongside ambition, one can build a legacy of innovation, empowerment, and authenticity.

Shashank's contributions to the tech industry have not gone unnoticed. Among his many accolades are the "Making a Difference Award" and "Associate of the Quarter" at Walmart Inc., along with his esteemed role as a judge for the Globee Awards for Technology. These honors reflect not just his technical brilliance but also his unwavering commitment to leading with impact and purpose.

In every project, every team, and every innovation he drives, Sai Shashank Rasamalla leaves an indelible mark—a legacy that embodies the future of leadership in technology.





At first glance, Shivam Dhar may seem like a tech enthusiast navigating the corporate world. But delve deeper, and you'll uncover a dynamic leader, a passionate mentor, and a lifelong learner whose journey through technology and innovation has left a profound impact. With nearly a decade of experience spanning e-commerce, healthcare, gaming, open-source projects, and cybersecurity, Shivam has built an enviable repertoire of skills and insights, all driven by a relentless curiosity to create meaningful solutions.

"My fascination with technology started with a simple command—a turtle moving across a computer screen," Shivam shares,

reflecting on the early spark that ignited his passion. Those childhood encounters with basic programming blossomed into a full-fledged interest, nurtured by encouraging teachers and a supportive family. Inspired by this foundation, Shivam pursued a degree in Computer Science and Engineering, diving into a field where he saw infinite possibilities to solve real-world problems.

Shivam's career has taken him through structured corporate environments and dynamic startups, offering him a rare dual perspective. Each role, whether as a team player or a leader, has honed his ability to adapt and thrive. "Every organization I've been part of has left me with lessons that shaped how I approach work

MEN
LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

SHIVAM DHAR

Building a Future Rooted in
Curiosity and Care

and leadership," he notes. Currently, he serves as an application and product owner at JPMorganChase, where he plays a pivotal role in securing the ever-evolving cloud estate. His focus on scalable, robust solutions reflects his dedication to creating systems that align with strategic objectives while prioritizing innovation and security. Beyond his responsibilities, he actively contributes to panels, webinars, and discussions on using technology to drive social good.

For Shivam, inspiration stems from his family. "My grandparents' stories, my parents' unwavering sense of purpose, and my friends' constant support have all shaped who I am," he says. These influences instilled in him a drive to blend engineering with empathy, creating solutions that address both technical challenges and societal needs. His goals reflect this dual purpose: to innovate impactful technologies while giving back to the community through mentoring and volunteering. "Growth isn't



just personal—it's about lifting others as you rise," he says.

One of Shivam's defining strengths is adaptability. Whether tackling a complex engineering problem or mentoring young professionals, he thrives in diverse environments and embraces challenges with a fresh perspective. "My ability to explain complex ideas simply has helped me collaborate better and mentor effectively," he adds. However, his commitment to getting things done sometimes leads him to take on too much. "I've learned to set boundaries and prioritize, ensuring I deliver quality work without compromising my well-being," Shivam admits. Self-awareness and continuous improvement turn weaknesses into opportunities for growth.

Shivam credits his ability to balance professional challenges with personal well-being to the unwavering support of his family. "They're my anchor," he says, emphasizing their role in his journey. By setting clear priorities, empowering his team, and unplugging when necessary, Shivam ensures he remains focused and refreshed. When it comes to unwinding, Shivam embraces creativity and connection. Whether it's painting, exploring new cuisines, or planning trips with family and friends, he cherishes moments that recharge him. "Travel, art, and spending time with loved ones keep me grounded and inspired," he shares.

As a leader, Shivam believes in creating an environment where every voice is

valued. "Leadership isn't about hierarchy; it's about enabling others to shine," he explains. By fostering collaboration and promoting open communication, he ensures that his team feels supported and empowered. His leadership extends beyond his immediate circle, as he mentors aspiring professionals, judges technology submissions, and contributes to nonprofit projects. "Seeing others grow and succeed is incredibly rewarding," he says.

Drawing inspiration from Kung Fu Panda, Shivam encourages everyone to discover their own "chi." "Embrace your journey and

live by values like kindness, empathy, and honesty," he advises. "Patience is key—keep doing your best, and the results will follow naturally." For Shivam, success isn't just about achievements; it's about staying true to your purpose and building meaningful connections.

Shivam's commitment to excellence has been recognized throughout his career. From winning hackathons to participating in panel discussions during JPMorganChase's Global Innovation Week, his contributions highlight his ability to blend technical expertise with creative

problem-solving. Ranked among the top 1% of mentors on Topmate, he continues to inspire and guide others in their journeys. In 2024, Shivam served as a judge for the Globee Awards for Technology, further cementing his reputation as an industry leader. "These opportunities allow me to learn as much as I contribute," he reflects.

For Shivam Dhar, technology is more than a career—it's a way to make a difference. From securing cloud systems to mentoring the next generation of innovators, he approaches every challenge with curiosity, empathy, and a commitment to creating impact. "The journey isn't about reaching a destination,"

he says. "It's about continuously learning, growing, and helping others along the way." Shivam's story serves as an inspiring reminder that true success lies in balancing ambition with compassion and innovation with purpose.



MEN LEADERS TO LOOK UP TO IN 2024

SINCHAN BANERJEE

Tenacious, Tactful and Trustworthy

With over 15 years of experience, Sinchan Banerjee is a trailblazer who leaves a trail of success wherever he goes, which is why his exceptional skills prove unmatched. He is a highly accomplished Principal Data Architect driving enterprise-grade data platform solutions, large-scale data migrations, and digital transformations

across multiple industries. He has a proven track record of architecting and delivering data engineering solutions for batch and streaming workloads in cloud and on-premises environments.

He is also the author of the book 'Scalable Data Architecture with Java' and a patent holder for predictive analytics. Sinchan is recognized for his



contributions to the field and has received numerous awards for leadership, innovation, and technical excellence. His passion for mentoring and team-building has fostered the development of highly capable teams.

Being from a small town in India, Sinchan's parents were very proactive in providing him with the best education possible. As a result, he was fortunate to do his schooling at Ram Krishna Mission Vidyapith, Deoghar, one of India's top residential schools. He then pursued Computer

Science Engineering at SRM University, where he was one of the top rankers and received the Merit Scholarship award. He started his professional journey as a Software Engineer at TCS. Subsequently, his journey in data engineering began when he joined Hewlett-Packard R&D in 2012. Here, he led the forecasting features and data warehouse of HP StoreOnce. During this period, he developed a novel storage forecasting algorithm that outperformed the accuracy of the industry-leading algorithm at that time and was patented by HP.

Then, he gained a decade-long experience as a Data Architect leading various large-scale data migrations, building enterprise data platforms, and leading digital transformations across the industry at Impetus, United Health Group, Data Core Systems, American Express, UST, and Elevancehealth.

Currently, he serves as a Principal Data Architect for UST. During this decade, these organizations recognized and awarded him multiple times for leadership, innovation, digital acumen, and agility. He has regularly contributed to various open-source projects, apache communities, and blogs. He was also approached by Packt publication to write a book on data engineering, which was published in 2022. In 2023, he pursued the Executive Leadership Program at Cornell University. To hone his skills further, he finished a Professional Education program on AI in Healthcare at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He says, "I had the opportunity to be on the judging panel for the Stratus Award 2024. Currently, I am working on Gen AI integrations with Data Engineering to develop new and better solutions in healthcare."

Sinchan has been bestowed with numerous awards throughout his career, including the UST STAR Award in 2024 and many UST Star Awards for excellence and innovation. Recently, he was recognized for being part of the judging panel for the Stratus Award for Cloud Computing. In 2018,

he was given the Opal Award for Innovation at United Health Group and the Award for Excellent Technical Contribution at Hewlett-Packard in 2013, to name a few.

Sinchan describes his leadership style and remarks, "I believe in inspirational, collaborative leadership, where as a leader I create an innovative and conducive environment for people to engage, collaborate, and develop innovative solutions. As a leader, I try to be very objective with my feedback

and suggestions, which help the team refine and develop the most optimized version of the solution. This also enables our team members to feel more valued, become more accountable, and be involved in making the plan successful."

He feels that his strength lies in his innovative outlook, determination, persistence, and resilience. However, his biggest strength is his ability to cancel out the noise, have a zen focus on his priorities, and continue doing his job. Sinchan feels that having a positive outlook without

getting bogged down by life's challenges helps him navigate them. Looking to a challenge as an opportunity helps him think out of the box and solve it innovatively.

For Sinchan, the source of his inspiration is technical excellence and opening up new horizons in the field of data engineering. He says, "I want to create a long-term positive impact in the field of data engineering and, hence, contribute, in my own small way, to the advancement of human civilization and humane experiences."

He leaves with a message for our readers: "Talent is a great asset but doesn't guarantee success. Only focusing on your goal, consistent hard work, and the ability to recuperate from your failures can lead you toward success. To grow in the ever-dynamic field of data engineering, you should never lose interest in learning and trying out newer technologies and products."





As a seasoned leader in fintech and technology, Sri Phani Teja Perumalla brings over 15 years of experience driving innovation, leading cross-functional teams, and creating customer-focused solutions across industries. He has carved a niche for himself in global financial services by pioneering solutions that are innovative and inclusive.

Based in Texas, USA, Sri's portfolio includes groundbreaking fintech and technology products

designed to enhance customer experience and drive business growth. Currently at JPMorgan Chase, he launched Chase Pay in 4, an alternative lending solution that achieved high Net Promoter Scores through exceptional customer engagement. His portfolio also includes work with Amazon, where he launched Alexa capabilities that reached millions worldwide. His expertise spans product management, API Strategy, alternative lending, and platform strategy, ensuring each project aligns with market demands and

MEN LEADERS
TO LOOK UP TO IN
2024

SRI PERUMALLA

Trailblazer in global financial services that are innovative and inclusive

regulatory frameworks, ultimately driving both customer and business success.

Today, Sri's goal is to create accessible financial solutions that empower underserved communities. He's driven to build products that blend seamlessly into users' lives, merging traditional finance with digital-first experiences. Through this, he aims to make financial services more inclusive, supporting a future where resources are accessible to everyone regardless of their background.

"My leadership journey is rooted in resilience, empathy, and strategic foresight, making me a role model for those aspiring to create impactful, scalable solutions. My commitment to empowering others, paired with continuous learning and mentorship, enables me to make a meaningful impact in my industry and among my peers," he says.

Born in India, Sri completed his BTech in Information Technology from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological



University, followed by a Master's in International Business from Hult International Business School.

He began his career in software engineering, evolving to solutions architecture and then to product management, where his passion for customer-centered solutions emerged. At Amazon USA, he led initiatives within Alexa, launching innovative products that transformed customer interactions. Moving to JPMorgan Chase as an Executive Director, he applied his technical and strategic expertise to help shape the firm's lending strategy, including the launch of Chase Pay in 4, and leading cross-functional teams. This progression allowed him to integrate technical skill with strategic leadership, ultimately enabling him to drive impactful, customer-centered solutions across multiple platforms and industries.

"My strengths include the ability to innovate under tight deadlines, a skill refined through leading complex projects in fintech and tech sectors. My adaptability enables me to navigate challenges in fast-paced environments. A growth area for me has been delegation — transitioning from hands-on involvement to empowering my team. Learning to trust and enable others has shown me the value of building a strong support network, making my team more effective and resilient," he says.

An astute professional, following are some of Sri's laurels:

- Global Hackathon Champion (JPMC, DFW) for 3 consecutive years (2017-2019).
- O'Infinite Award & Leading Lights - Recognized for performance and innovation at HCL for consecutive years.
- Alexa Experiences Launch - Led successful launch of Type with Alexa and App Search with Alexa, impacting millions.
- Guest Speaker - Featured at Chase internal and external product conferences and alumni events at his university, sharing insights on fintech and product strategy.

Sri balances his professional and personal life by setting clear boundaries to ensure quality time in both areas. Outside of work, he enjoys spending quality time with his family, engaging in physical activities, and diving into books and writing. Crafting articles on

fintech and technology trends is both a creative outlet and a way to stay intellectually engaged. He also loves tackling mental challenges like Rubik's Cube, Sudoku, and other puzzles. He rounds up his day with an evening workout

routine to balance his physical and mental well-being.

A sought after mentor, Sri's leadership style is collaborative and empowering, with a focus on fostering innovation. He believes in setting a clear vision and enabling his team with the tools and autonomy to achieve it. Through transparency and mutual respect, he creates an environment that encourages ownership and creativity. His goal is to inspire others to innovate while collectively pushing the boundaries of what they can accomplish together.

Sharing his mantra for those willing to lead, he says, "My message to aspiring leaders is to view every challenge as an opportunity for growth. Success is built on resilience, adaptability, and a commitment to lifelong learning. By staying curious, grounded in values, and focused on making a positive impact, we can transform even the most complex challenges into rewarding achievements. Remember to seek ways to lift others as you progress in your career — true leadership lies in inspiring and empowering those around you."



MEN LEADERS TO LOOK UP TO IN 2024

SUNDAR KRISHNAN

Empowering the next generation of Data Science and AI Leaders

A transformative force in Data Science and AI, Sundar Krishnan has led significant projects at Fortune 50 companies, driven innovation, optimized processes, and achieved substantial cost savings. Recognized for his strategic vision and ability to lead diverse teams, Sundar has also created the Data

Science Academy, authored the book 'Applied Data Science using PySpark', and mentors professionals and students regularly.

Currently, he's leading healthcare innovation as Senior AI/ML Manager at CVS Health, Texas, USA. His expertise has seen him inducted as a Judge at multiple



awards; a Fellow in Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence & Top Tier Impact; and a Member in exclusive invite only councils – Data Science Leadership Council from Workforce Institute, and Executive Fellow at The Digital Economist.



Born in India, Sundar's Data Science and AI journey began with his Master's at Oklahoma State University, US where Dr. Goutam Chakraborty's courses ignited his passion for the field. Later, he joined Comcast through a career fair which proved a defining opportunity. Working with industry experts, he immersed himself in the world of AI-driven business decisions, witnessing

first-hand their impact on business outcomes.

From the outset, he focused on efficiency improvements. He led efforts to automate Machine Learning processes which saved 80% of Data Scientists' time and millions in overhead costs. His proudest achievement was creating the Data Science Academy, developing course content and teaching employees without a Data Science background. This initiative became a huge success which evolved into a Center of Excellence for mentoring new employees. Later, he laid the foundation for Comcast Enterprise Business Intelligence innovation team, leveraging cutting-edge AI/ML technologies for internal applications.

When Covid-19 hit, he pivoted to healthcare, joining CVS Health. There, he continued his AI/ML passion, mentoring internal employees and sharing his expertise. Seeking a broader audience, he began mentoring through Topmate and Adplist in 2024, and became a top 1% mentor on Topmate in a short stint.

How would Sundar define his leadership style, we ask him. "Leadership comes in many forms, but the qualities that truly stand out are the ability to actively listen to employees, offer support and advice tailored to their needs, and give credit where it is due," he answers.

He adds that his inspiration largely comes from his family and friends. Being a first-generation college graduate, his parents have been unwavering in their trust and support, without which he wouldn't have graduated or made it to the US. Equally significant is his maternal uncle, who coached Sundar through his early career decisions, shaping who he is.

Today, his wife is a major support, without whom he couldn't have written his book during the pandemic. His friends too have been pillars of strength in all critical decisions, often stepping in as mentors when needed.

"Growing up in a family where finances were tight, I witnessed the sacrifices my parents made to support my education. Such dedication has instilled in me a deep commitment to assist others in their educational journeys. The royalties from my book go directly to educational

charities, and I offer free mentorship programs to reach as many people as possible. In the future, I plan to create content on accessible platforms like YouTube and Medium to reach an even wider audience of students and professionals. My long-term vision is to build a comprehensive resource network for those who lack access to formal mentorship or guidance."

Sundar's ability to impact and transform has seen him honored at prestigious forums:

1. Rookie of the Quarter at Comcast for improving ML performance and making the business profitable within 3 months of joining the Fortune 40 company.
2. Enterprise Excellence Award for automating AI/ML process to save 80% of time for each Data Scientist, saving millions of dollars for Comcast.
3. Analytics and Behavior Change Generative AI Hack-a-thon winner for creating a synthetic data product ensuring patient privacy.
4. AI/ML award from Global Recognition Awards.
5. Outstanding Contribution to AI at the AIConics Awards USA 2024
6. Emerging Leader in AI & Data Analytics in Healthcare and Hospitals from Asian African Leadership awards
7. International Achievers Award from IAF

A high-powered professional as well as a family man, Sundar strikes a balance by following the Pomodoro technique, committing to tasks with regular breaks to stay energized and recharged.

In his personal time, he mixes up activities to stay balanced and engaged. "I love playing with my kid or taking him for walks. On weekends, I play cricket with my friends. Movies come next in the list that helps me unplug and relax. I also delve into non-fiction books on time

management, leadership, and habits which help me discover new skills and provide valuable insights for my mentees. Recently, I've started listening to audiobooks and podcasts. I also follow several YouTube channels on finance to stay connected with current market trends."

A veritable thought leader, Sundar sums up his mantra in one sentence: "Stay curious, stay committed, and stay compassionate."



MEN LEADERS TO LOOK UP TO IN 2024

TEJAS T. YADAV

Leveraging technology to transform healthcare and life sciences

As an innovator, strategist, and technology leader holding multiple patents, Tejas Yadav has developed cutting-edge software products that transform workplace management through cloud-based solutions. His leadership in data and analytics engineering enables scalable, secure systems that meet the stringent demands of healthcare and life sciences, making them futuristic.

Young and progressive, Tejas has climbed the field for 15 years and today he's the Vice

President of Data & Analytics Engineering at RxSense. He resides in Connecticut, USA.

"My inspiration comes from the opportunity to make a meaningful impact through technology, particularly in healthcare and life sciences. I'm driven by the challenge of solving complex problems and delivering innovative solutions that improve lives. My goals are to continue advancing in leadership, building high-performing teams, and driving data-driven strategies that support affordable healthcare. I aim to foster a culture of growth and inclusivity,

inspiring others to reach their potential and contribute to transformative change."

Tejas was born and raised in Mumbai, earning his undergraduate degree in

Computer Engineering from the University of Mumbai in 2009. He began his career as a software engineer at Patni Computer Systems Ltd. In 2013, he moved to Connecticut and worked as a contractor at General Electric headquarters, following which he joined NuVolo as an innovation architect in 2015. Over the years, he took on increasing responsibilities, contributing to developing 35+ software products on a cloud computing platform.

During his journey across continents, Tejas has held roles ranging from developer to vice president. He specializes in Integrated Workplace Management Systems (IWMS), with 8 years dedicated to designing and leading products like Maintenance Management, Space and



Facilities Management, and OT Security in regulated healthcare and life sciences environments. He has authored and co-authored 10 patents in the US for IWMS solutions. Additionally, he has 5 years of experience in IT Service Management (ITSM) modules and is passionate about building diverse, high-performance teams to drive successful project outcomes.

In 2023, Tejas transitioned to RxSense, where he now leads data and analytics engineering as a VP to support affordable healthcare solutions.

One of his key strengths is his ability to lead by example, combining technical expertise with strategic vision. He thrives in mentoring and empowering his team members, creating an environment where collaboration and innovation flourish. His experience in managing complex, cross-functional projects has taught him the importance of adaptability, communication, and fostering trust.

In addition, it has brought home a plethora of prestigious honours - Tejas served as a judge on Globee Business Awards in two categories: Leadership and Women in Business. He has multiple leadership certifications from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; an advanced business analytics certification from MIT Sloan Executive Education; and developer and system administrator certifications in cloud platforms like ServiceNow and Microsoft. He also completed the Foundations of Leadership course by the National Society

of Leadership & Success, and is now pursuing an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University.

Tejas' leadership style is centered on being a servant leader. He prioritizes mentorship and empowering cross-functional teams by fostering a collaborative environment where open communication, trust, and active participation are essential. By aligning team goals with business objectives, he ensures they deliver high-quality results, meet client needs, and maintain a culture of continuous improvement.

Interestingly, he is also a thorough advocate of the work-life balance. "Balancing the demands of my profession and personal life requires planning and setting clear boundaries. I prioritize time management, focusing on high-impact tasks during work hours while making room for personal time to recharge. Regular exercise, mindful practices, and quality time with family help me maintain balance and stay energized. While proper workload distribution and planning help empower my teams to achieve our goals without compromising well-being. This

approach allows me to remain effective both professionally and personally."

In his personal time, Tejas loves spending quality moments with his family and friends, as they bring balance and joy to his life. One of his favorite hobbies is astronomy and observing the night sky, which allows him to relax and marvel at the universe. He also enjoys spending time in nature, whether trail walking or riding his bicycle through scenic paths. Playing badminton and cricket is another way he unwinds, as sports keep him active and energized.

As our tete-a-tete draws to a close, Tejas leaves us with some food for thought: "I believe that success is not just about technical expertise or achieving milestones — it's about growth, collaboration, and impact. Embrace challenges as opportunities to learn and evolve. Surround yourself with supportive people who inspire and motivate you. Never underestimate the power of continuous learning, adaptability, and building diverse teams. Stay curious, take bold steps, and be open to new perspectives. Ultimately, it's about making a difference, fostering growth in others, and contributing positively to the world around you. Keep moving forward."



Timothy Goebel is a one-of-a-kind individual whose keen sense of direction and magnetic personality have been a driving force in the Artificial Intelligence industry. With over a decade of experience in AI and machine learning, he has consistently driven innovation and built collaborative environments that empower teams to excel. He has been featured in AOTMP Insights Magazine for his contributions and insights in the technology field. He was also a guest speaker on Manufacturing Computer Vision AI at industry conferences and workshops, sharing knowledge and best practices to enhance AI

adoption in manufacturing.

His journey began when he developed a strong foundation in engineering, earning a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and an Associate's degree in Computer and Electronics Engineering. He then started his career as a Field Service Engineer, gaining hands-on experience in PLC and HMI programming. Timothy then progressed to roles such as Software Designer at Caterpillar, where he was instrumental in leading R&D for new technologies.

Later, he became a Senior AI and ML Software Engineer at Foxconn, driving innovative AI solutions. At SafeNet



TIMOTHY GOEBEL

A Magnetic Personality Making Strides in the Artificial Intelligence Domain

Consulting, he established an AI practice and developed training programs while engaging with C-level executives. Through each role, he focused on building effective teams, driving impactful projects, promoting responsible AI practices, and shaping commitment to mentorship and innovation in the tech industry.

Having gained substantial knowledge and experience in AI, machine learning, and software development, Timothy has thrived in all his ventures, including developing advanced AI solutions, including a breast cancer detection project and a predictive replenishment model using LSTM. As a Software Designer at Caterpillar, he led R&D for new technologies and deployed effective PLC and HMI systems.

When it comes to his inspiration, he says, "My inspiration comes from the transformative power of technology to improve lives and drive innovation. Witnessing how AI can enhance productivity and

decision-making actively motivates to push boundaries in my field." He further reiterates his future goals, which include advancing his expertise in AI and machine learning, mentoring the next generation of engineers, and leading projects that contribute to meaningful societal change. Ultimately, he aims to create solutions that not only meet business needs but also have a positive impact on communities.

One of his key strengths is his ability to adapt quickly to new technologies and concepts, which allows him to stay at the forefront of AI and machine learning advancements. He mentions, "This adaptability also enables leading teams effectively through complex projects. However, a weakness I've identified is my tendency to take on too much responsibility, which can lead to burnout. I've learned to delegate more and trust my team, which allows collaboration and empowering others to grow. This journey has taught the importance of balance and leveraging diverse skills for greater collective success."



When balancing professional and personal life, Timothy feels the most paramount factor is intentionality. He prioritizes setting boundaries, designating specific work hours, and ensuring dedicated time for family and personal interests. He also practices mindfulness to help him stay present and manage stress effectively. He also embraces flexibility— adapting his schedule to accommodate personal commitments. Regularly reflecting on his priorities and adjusting them as necessary allows him to maintain a healthy balance, ensuring that neither his career nor his personal life suffers.

He describes his leadership style as collaborative and empowering. He believes in building an inclusive environment where team members feel valued and encouraged to share their ideas. He focuses on open communication and actively listens to his team's perspectives, which helps build trust and strengthen relationships. He also focuses on setting clear goals and providing guidance while allowing autonomy, enabling individuals to take ownership of their work. He aims to create a continuous learning and innovation culture by nurturing talent and promoting professional growth.



He imparts his message to the reader: "Embrace your unique journey and never underestimate the power of resilience. Life's challenges are often opportunities in disguise, pushing us to grow and adapt. Surround yourself with mentors and a supportive community that encourages your ambitions. Always strive for continuous learning, as it fuels innovation and personal development. Remember, success is not just about individual achievements; it's about lifting others as you climb. Let's commit to creating an inclusive environment where diverse voices are heard and celebrated, paving the way for a brighter, more equitable future for everyone. Stay curious and keep pushing boundaries!"





REST ASSURED!

The Best Sleep Hacks for Ultimate Wellness

By **Dr. Mita Sharma**

In today's fast-paced world, sleep is no longer just an option for rest; it's essential for our survival and wellness. Increasing research links sleep deprivation to numerous health issues, including weakened immunity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and even cognitive decline. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, insufficient sleep is now a public health epidemic. Poor sleep quality can disrupt hormonal balance, elevate stress levels, and lower resilience, leading to an array of chronic illnesses. Fortunately, there

are powerful, effective, and natural methods for improving sleep quality. Here, we explore holistic yet practical strategies to help you achieve the rejuvenating sleep you deserve.

1. Establish a Consistent Sleep Routine

The body thrives on routine. By sticking to a regular sleep schedule, even on weekends, you reinforce your body's natural circadian rhythms—the internal clock governing sleep-wake cycles. Research published in *Sleep Health* indicates that consistent sleep and wake times enhance overall sleep quality and

daytime alertness. So, choose a bedtime that allows for 7-9 hours of rest and stick to it, as consistency is key to optimal sleep.

2. Create a Calming Pre-Sleep Ritual

A pre-sleep ritual can condition your body for rest. Reading a book, listening to calming music, or practising mindfulness signals to the brain that it's time to wind down. A study in the *Journal of Sleep Research* revealed that relaxation routines before bed reduce the time it takes to fall asleep. Avoid screens during this time to prevent blue light



from inhibiting melatonin, the hormone that governs sleep.

3. Mind What You Eat and Drink

Diet has a significant impact on sleep quality. Caffeine and nicotine, known stimulants, can delay sleep, and while alcohol may seem to promote relaxation, it often disrupts deeper sleep stages. Additionally, heavy or spicy meals close to bedtime can cause discomfort and interfere with rest. For a gentle sleep aid, try a snack rich in magnesium, such as almonds or a banana. Foods like cherries and kiwi are also known to support natural melatonin production, which can enhance sleep.

4. Prioritize Natural Light Exposure During the Day

Daylight exposure—especially in the morning—strengthens circadian rhythms by aiding melatonin regulation. According to the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine, individuals exposed to natural morning light fall asleep more easily at night. Try to step outside or spend time near a sunny window in the early hours to help your body synchronize with its natural sleep-wake cycle.

5. Optimize Your Sleep Environment

A comfortable, quiet, and cool bedroom significantly improves sleep quality. The National Sleep Foundation recommends a room temperature of 60-67°F (15-19°C), as cooler conditions help the body naturally drop in temperature to induce sleep. Blackout curtains, earplugs, and a comfortable mattress

can eliminate disturbances and create a sanctuary for restful slumber.

6. Engage in Gentle Evening Exercise

Light exercise in the evening—like yoga or stretching—relaxes the body and mind, paving the way for sleep. A study published in Mental Health and Physical Activity found that people engaging in regular light physical activity reported fewer sleep issues and better quality of sleep. Avoid vigorous workouts too close to bedtime, as these can have a stimulating effect.

7. Limit Naps for Better Nighttime Sleep

While naps can offer a quick energy boost, prolonged or late-afternoon naps can interfere with nighttime sleep. Experts suggest keeping naps to 20-30 minutes to prevent grogginess and maintain the body's natural sleep drive for the night.

8. Practice Mindfulness or Deep Breathing Techniques

Stress and anxiety are common barriers to sleep. Mindfulness meditation, progressive muscle relaxation, or deep breathing exercises can ease stress and calm the nervous system. According to a study in JAMA Internal Medicine, mindfulness practices improve sleep quality by quieting the mind and preparing it for sleep.

9. Harness the Power of Aromatherapy

Aromatherapy with essential oils like lavender can create a calming environment for sleep. Lavender, in particular,

is known for its mild sedative properties, and research shows that its scent can reduce anxiety and improve sleep quality. A few drops on your pillow or in a diffuser can enhance relaxation and make sleep come more naturally.

10. Boost Vitamin D Levels

Vitamin D plays a role in sleep regulation, and research published in Nutrients highlights a connection between low vitamin D levels and poor sleep quality. Spending time outdoors or taking a supplement can help maintain healthy levels, which, in turn, supports better sleep.

Additional Easy Sleep Hacks for Quick Relief

While the above lifestyle strategies help address long-term sleep improvement, here are some quick, easy-to-use sleep hacks for immediate support:

1. Mudra for Sleep: Practicing a simple hand mudra (yogic hand position) such as the Shakti Mudra can help alleviate insomnia and calm the nervous system. To perform it, sit comfortably, touch your ring fingers and little fingers together, fold the thumbs inward, and extend your index and middle fingers. Hold this position for a few minutes while breathing deeply to activate relaxation.

2. Acupressure: Acupressure on certain points can encourage sleep. Gently pressing the area between your eyebrows (Third Eye Point) or the small indentation between the base of the thumb and the

wrist (Spirit Gate) can relieve stress and promote drowsiness. Massage these points for about one minute each before bed.

3. Rubbing Your Hands and Feet:

Rubbing your palms and soles of the feet for a few minutes activates the parasympathetic nervous system, which helps to relax the body and induce sleep. This technique is a simple yet effective way to prepare the body for rest.

The Takeaway

Prioritizing sleep is essential for a life of health and vitality. As sleep researcher Matthew Walker eloquently puts it in his book, *Why We Sleep*: “The best bridge between despair and hope is a good night’s sleep.” Investing time in these strategies is an investment in your long-term wellness. Integrate these holistic, research-backed practices into your routine, embrace the simpler techniques, and allow sleep to transform your life from night to day.

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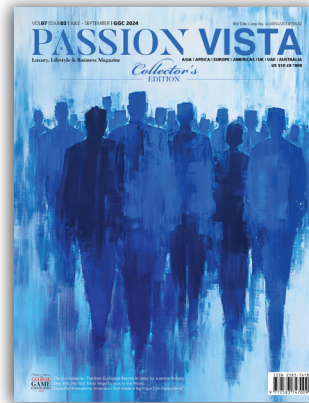


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