

75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav



# WOMEN TRANSFORMING INDIA 2021

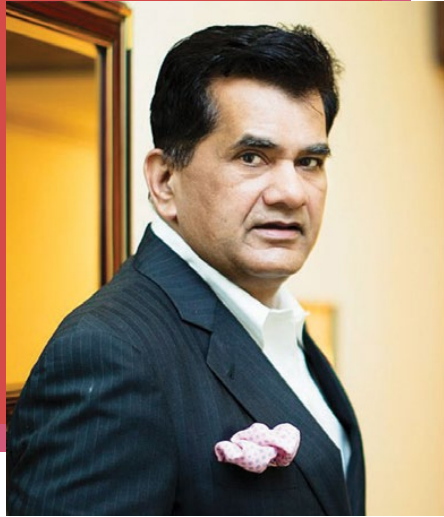




# WOMEN TRANSFORMING INDIA 2021

In partnership with





**Mr. Amitabh Kant**

CEO, NITI Aayog

# FOREWORD

As we celebrate 75 years of India's independence we note the strides taken by our country towards freedom - from unemployment, illiteracy, poverty, lack of opportunities and most importantly an unfair and inequitable society.

As NITI Aayog and as citizens it is our moral, social and constitutional responsibility to ensure the women of our country progress, by providing them with equal rights and opportunities. Since 2018, Women Entrepreneurship Platform has been such an endeavor - pushing the needle towards a more equitable society. The platform addresses informational asymmetry and opportunity inequities within the entrepreneurial ecosystem to propel women entrepreneurs building India.

As we celebrate Amrit Mahotsav observing 75 years of independence, we are also aware that the ocean of opportunities open to today's women would have not been possible without the struggles of our female heroes of yesteryears. And so, this year Women Entrepreneurship Platform in the fifth edition of the Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards is saluting 75 strong women of our country who are building '*Sashakt aur Samarth Bharat*' – via self-sufficient businesses and/or overcoming challenges through unique business solutions.

I congratulate all the awardees and I am extremely grateful to our ecosystem partners who have helped empower these courageous women to take their dreams to the next level. I would also complement the NITI Aayog team led by Anna Roy in making WEP and WTI Awards such great success. I wish them all the best.



**Ms. Anna Roy**  
Senior Adviser, NITI Aayog



# MESSAGE

Swami Vivekananda, one of the greatest sons of India, quoted that, "There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved, It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing."

Women are the backbone of society and have always played a positive role in shaping our society. Women entrepreneurs in particular, represent a substantial proportion of India's economy and yet the societal and systemic barriers are disproportionately skewed against them.

NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform is a unique public-private partnership initiative where individuals collaborate and help scale up the efforts towards empowering women by promoting entrepreneurship. The low women entrepreneurship rates are part of a broader gender gap in economic participation and opportunity. Thus, it is crucial to encourage women to use their acquired skills by joining the workforce. Mentorship and skilling programmes of WEP shall equip entrepreneurs to level the field. Sharing their success stories in social and traditional media provides inspiration and proof that business can be a woman's world, too, and therefore strengthen the confidence of younger female entrepreneurs. Community module of WEP connects not required the women entrepreneurs and provides a seamless platform for networking and building sisterhood.

As India celebrates its 75 years of existence as an independent nation, WEP celebrates 75 female stalwarts who have enabled *Sashakt aur Samarth Bharat*. Our small efforts towards building a conducive ecosystem stand re-affirmed as these women stand tall representing the new India - the bold India.

Jai Hind!

# SEARCH & SELECT COMMITTEE



## ARUNDHATI BHATTACHARYA

**Chairperson & Chief Executive Officer - Salesforce, India**

Arundhati Bhattacharya oversees the growth strategy of Salesforce, India and plays an integral role in defining Salesforce's relationship within its ecosystem. Prior to Salesforce, Arundhati was the first woman chairperson at the State Bank of India, credited with ushering in the digital transformation era. With 40+ years of rich experience in the financial sector, Arundhati has earned a string of accolades to her name; most notably - "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women" by Forbes, "Top 50 globally most powerful women in business" and "World's 50 Greatest Leaders" list by Fortune.



## DEBJANI GHOSH

**President - NASSCOM**

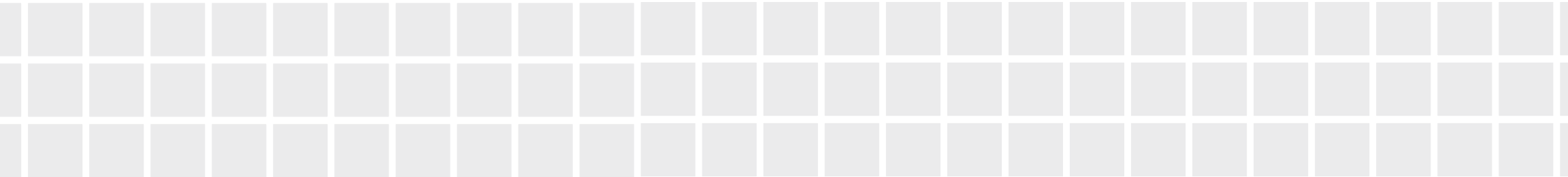
Debjani Ghosh is the President of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM). A veteran of the technology industry, a staunch champion of inclusion in corporate India, Debjani is a firm believer in the power of technology as the greatest equalizer. Debjani has been honored in 2018 by the President of India under the auspices of the 'First Ladies' programme and, Vogue declared her as the Tech Leader of the year 2020. Recognizing her contribution to technology, she was also facilitated in '40 over 40 - World's Most Inspiring Women' list by Female One Zero (F10) Magazine in 2022.



## RONNIE SCREWVALA

**First-Generation Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, Opinion leader & Author**

Ronnie first pioneered Cable TV for all of India and went on to build one of the largest toothbrush operations in India. He established a big media and entertainment company – UTV. Newsweek termed him the Jack Warner of India, Esquire rated him one of the 75 most influential people of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and Fortune tagged him as Asia's 25 most powerful. He is an author of two books: 'Dream With Your Eyes Open' and 'Skill It, Kill It' and the Co-Founder & Chairman of upGrad which zeroes in on the massive Online Education market. Through his Swades Foundation, he has committed to empower one million lives in rural India.



### **ROOPA KUDVA**

#### **Managing Partner - Omidyar Network India**

Roopa leads Omidyar Network India and is responsible for overall strategy, investments, operations and portfolio development. She spent 23 years with CRISIL, and was its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. In 2020, she led CRISIL's transformation from being India's premier ratings agency into a diversified global analytical company. Roopa is regularly featured in the media as a prominent woman leader of corporate India. She has served as a member of several policy-level committees relating to the Indian financial system, and has been on several government, regulatory and policy committees and industry associations.



### **SHOMBI SHARP**

#### **UN Resident Coordinator for India**

Mr Shombi Sharp, a national of the United States of America, is the UN Resident Coordinator for India since November 2021 and has devoted more than 25 yrs of his career to promoting inclusive and sustainable development internationally. He most recently served as United Nations Resident Coordinator in Armenia, after holding several leadership positions at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in various capacities across Armenia, Georgia, Lebanon, Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States in the Russian Federation, and New York. He is a published author of works in health economics and was a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) "Policy Champion" as well as a nominee for the UNDP Administrator's Award.

# JURY MEMBERS



**Aarti Mohan**  
Co-Founder & Partner, Sattva



**Abhishek Chaudhary**  
Vice President- Corporate  
Affairs, NICDC



**Abhishek Sinha**  
Co-Founder and CEO, Eko India  
Financial Services Pvt. Ltd.



**Aniket Doegar**  
CEO, Haqdarshak



**Arnab Kumar**  
Former India Director of Fintech Strategy  
and Investments for Prosus  
(Naspers Group)



**Arpita Agarwal**  
Chief of Staff to India President  
and MD, Dell Technologies



**Arun Chawla**  
Director-General, FICCI



**Ashwajit Singh**  
Founder & Managing  
Director, IPE Global



**Bhawna Arora**  
Founder, KAB Welfare Foundation



**Desh Gaurav Sekhri**  
Co-founder, Sports and Society  
Accelerator



**Dr. Ayesha Chaudhary**  
Officer on Special Duty,  
PSA's Office



**Dr. Rohini Shrivatsa**  
National Technology  
Officer, Microsoft



**Dr. Sarayu Natarajan**  
Founder, Aapti



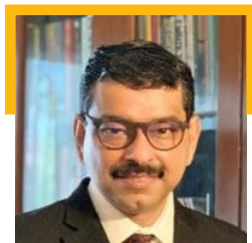
**Dr. Shanta Thoutam**  
CIO, Telangana State  
Innovation Cell



**Gaurav Jai Gupta**  
Founder and Creative  
Director - Akaaro



**Harjinder Kaur Talwar**  
MD & CEO, Comvision  
India Pvt. Ltd.



**Harish Krishnan**  
Managing Director & Chief Policy  
Officer Cisco Systems, India &  
SAARC



**Himanshu Sikka**  
Chief Strategy and Diversification  
Officer & Practice Lead –  
Health, Nutrition and WASH,  
IPE Global



**Jyotsna Silting**  
Principal Chief  
Conservator of Forest



**Jyoti Vij**  
Deputy Secretary General,  
FICCI





**Kanishka**

Head – Service Lines, India/South Asia,  
WWPS Amazon



**Kawaljit Singh Oberoi**

Corporation Bank, Partner KS  
Oberoi & Co.



**Krishna Sarma**

Managing Partner,  
Corporate Law Group



**Lakshmi Puri**

Former Assistant Secretary General,  
United Nations



**Mamta Kohli**

Senior Social Development Adviser  
with Foreign, Commonwealth &  
Development Office



**Manu Shukla**

Head, Government Transformation  
–India & South Asia



**Mukesh Mohan Gupta**

President, Chamber of Indian Micro  
Small & Medium Enterprises



**Nidhi Hola**

Country Marketing director, Dell



**Parnal Vats**

Manager Government Engagement  
and Policy Response, PayPal



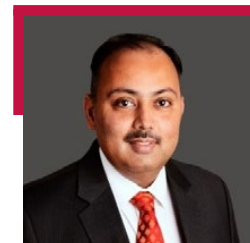
**Percy Bell**

Minister-Counsellor  
Treasury, New Delhi



**Prashant Tandon**

Co-Founder, 1MG  
Technologies Pvt.Ltd.



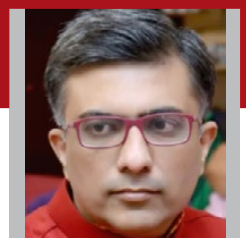
**Raghavendra Singh**

President - Group Public Affairs &  
Government Business at  
Kotak Mahindra Bank

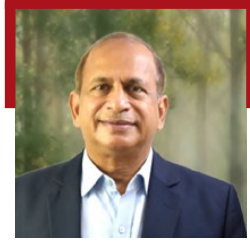


**Rahul Matthan**

Technology Head & Partner, Trilegal



**Rajiv Aggarwal**  
Director & Head of Public  
Policy, India at Meta



**Ramesh Abhishek**  
IAS (Retired)



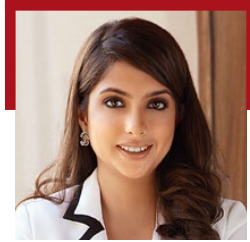
**Sanjiv Gupta**  
COO, Penguin Randomhouse



**Saurabh Bajpai**  
Deputy General Manager, SIDBI



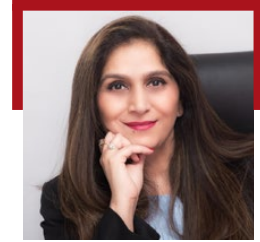
**Sharad Sharma**  
Co-Founder, iSPIRT Foundation



**Shivani Malik**  
Director, Da Milano



**Shriya Sethi**  
Country Director, Uchicago/IIC



**Simmi Dhamija**  
Chief Transformation Officer,  
Tech Mahindra



**Susan Ferguson**  
Country Representative UN  
Women Office for India



**Tauseef Ahmad Mirza**  
Chairman & Managing Director,  
Mirza International Ltd.



**Ullas Marar**  
Deputy Head of Project, GIZ



**Yogesh D. Brahmanekar**  
CEO, SCIE

# NITI AAYOG - WEP TEAM



**ANNA ROY**  
Senior Adviser



**PREETI SYAL**  
Senior Specialist



**SUMITA SONI**  
Young Professional



**SAURABH THUKRAL**  
Senior Specialist



**SABYASACHI UPADHYAY**  
Associate



**LIANKHANKHUP GUTE**  
Research Officer



**INDRANI DASGUPTA**  
Communication Lead



**SALONI SACHDEVA**  
Young Professional





WOMEN  
TRANSFORMING  
INDIA 2021





# WOMEN TRANSFORMING INDIA 2021









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**TRANSFORMING**



INDIA

75

STORIES OF  
WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS  
CONTRIBUTING IN  
MAKING A SASHAKT AUR  
SAMARTH BHARAT



**Nisha Jain Grover**

Vatsalya Legacy Educational Society  
Jaipur, Rajasthan

## Nurturing Children to Reach their Full Potential

Vatsalya legacy was born out of a commitment of the Founder Director Nisha Jain Grover, to offer individual Educational Programme for students. It is the only organization in India which offers all three pillars of counselling, training, and remedial education under one roof.

Nisha prioritises the most sensitive children, including their rights, child safety issues and inclusive education. The team at Vatsalya truly believes that inclusiveness and equality are the only two ways for a better India.



**Vatsalya** aims for an inclusive and literate India and works towards creating an atmosphere free from discrimination, for all children.

# Mitti Cafe- An Inclusion in Every Served Meal

Mitti Café is a chain of cafes that provide experiential training and employment to adults with physical, intellectual and psychiatric disability. It was founded by Alina Alam, as an outreach initiative to create awareness about inclusivity and disability rights.

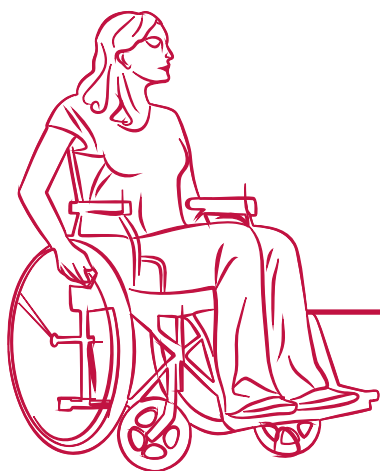
With over 16 cafes all over India, hundreds of adults with special needs have been served over 5 million meals in a span of four years. They are enabling and empowering people with special abilities; by making them economically independent, confident, and providing a life of dignity.



**Mitti Café** is harnessing the abundant potential of persons with special abilities by engaging them in productive activities.

**Alina Alam**

Mitti Social Initiatives Foundation  
Bengaluru, Karnataka







**Gauri Gopal Agrawal**  
Skilled Samaritan Foundation (Sirohi)  
Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh

## Creating Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities for Women Artisans

Sirohi is India's first sustainable, unique, home and furniture brand. Gauri, Founder and Director of Skilled Samaritan Foundation (Sirohi), started the enterprise, with an aim to engage and empower women from the marginalized communities with no formal education. This initiative creatively integrates technology with design and trains women to make well-designed functional home & lifestyle products, and secures them with financial independence.

Gauri, a young entrepreneur, proudly states that Sirohi, has till now impacted more than 15,000 women and families in Northern India. It is on a mission to become a trailblazer in its efforts to economically empower women of rural India.



**Sirohi** aspires to be a global brand for sustainable home and lifestyle products, promising uniqueness to each product which weaves a beautiful story.



# Innovative Technological Solutions Transforming Telecom Infrastructure

Neha Satak is a serial entrepreneur and a researcher who wants to beam the internet from space using satellites that carry Astrome transponders. Her deep-tech startup is accelerating the deployment of 5G and backhaul telecommunication infrastructure through its patented millimetre wave E-band radios and satellite communication products.

Astrome has received multiple awards for its impact on Telecom infrastructure in India and the global markets. It is an example of not required research and corporate worlds coming together to support entrepreneurs.



## **Neha Satak**

Astrome Technologies Pvt. Ltd.  
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Incubated at India's premier R&D school, the Indian Institute of Science, **Astrome** is supported by organizations like CISCO, Analog Devices and IESA.



# Inspiring, Informing, Upskilling India in 10 Vernacular Languages

Supriya Paul is the CEO & Co-Founder of Josh Talks, India's largest regional content and upskilling platform. It is creating an ecosystem to inspire, inform, upskill and create employment opportunities for the youth in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities in India.

Available in 10 languages on YouTube, the content garners more than 70 Million views on a monthly basis. Their unique android application - Josh Skills, which has which has over 2 million downloads, helps youth to overcome their hesitation of conversing in English. They continue to develop tools that effectively nurture each individual's potential.



**Josh Talks** is unlocking human potential by building a physical and digital infrastructure designed for youth.

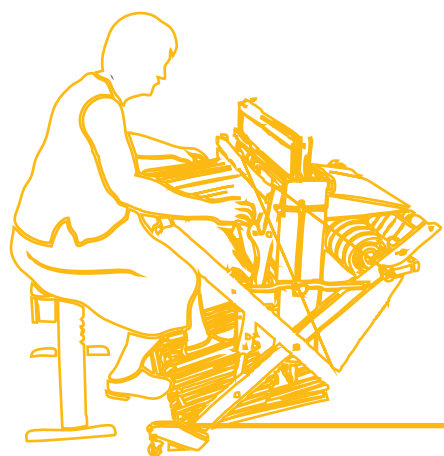


**Supriya Paul**  
Josh Talks  
Gurugram, Haryana

# Women Artisans Build Entrepreneurial Skills through Collective Gain

Vijaya Switha initiated Chitrika to work with artisan communities in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, incubating women-owned and managed collectives. Their core mission is to work with artisans to co-create sustainable and successful business enterprises that are owned & operated by the artisans themselves.

They enable artisans to form collectives that increase their income levels, manage market engagements, and build & hone their business skills.



**Chitrika** pioneers in using technology, management, skilling and design diversity to augment incomes of artisans.



**Vijaya Switha**

Chitrika

Hyderabad, Telangana



**Anu Acharya**  
Mapmygenome India Ltd.  
Hyderabad, Telangana

## Providing Insights into Genetics for Improved Health & Well-being

Mapmygenome™ is a molecular diagnostics company which encourages people to be proactive about their health. They provide insights about our health by combining genetic report and health history that include traits, drug responses, inherited conditions and diseases.

Anu Acharya, Founder and CEO, Mapmygenome India Ltd., aims to provide personalized healthcare to 100+ million people worldwide using genomics and save at least 1 million lives by the year 2030. Their patent service, Genomepatri™ is a comprehensive assessment of genetic risk for lifestyle diseases, predisposition to traits, carrier status and drug responses. It is your unique health profile, which they focus on.



By combining genetic report and health history with genetic counseling, **Mapmygenome™** provides actionable steps for individuals towards a healthy living.



# A Unique and Personalized Approach to Teaching

Savita Garg, Founder, Eclassopedia, built an online tutoring platform to enable live and interactive learning between a tutor & a student. The platform aims to provide world-class education to students irrespective of their location. It is an innovative approach to teaching, thereby helping students to connect with the subject matter that they need to pursue.

Through personalized and focused teaching processes, the students develop the tools they need for ongoing success in their respective fields of study.



**Eclassopedia** is providing personalized experience through audio and video aids to enhance quality and innovative learning for students.

**Savita Garg**  
Eclassopedia  
New Delhi





**Vidya Subramanian**  
Vidya Subramanian Academy  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu

## Promoting India's Art, Culture and Heritage to a Global Platform

Vidya Subramanian's dedicated work in online teaching of Carnatic music and other traditional Indian arts has helped empower nearly a hundred women artists & teachers through work-from-home opportunities. Vidya Subramanian Academy facilitates customized, one-on-one learning sessions in the online environment.

It currently has a growing student body of 1500+ and is run on a sustainable, social entrepreneurship model. Students and teachers come from diverse backgrounds and includes learners with special needs. Free video lessons and podcasts have benefitted several thousands of music lovers.



**Vidya Subramanian** is taking Carnatic music and other traditional Indian arts to a global forum, while empowering women artists through creation of work from home opportunities.

# Envisioning a Financially Inclusive World where every Entrepreneur has Equal Access to Capital

Hardika Shah turned her vision of supporting underserved entrepreneurs by launching Kinara Capital to disrupt small business lending in India. Under her vision and leadership, Kinara is advancing financial inclusion in the MSME sector. It has led to an impact of INR 700 crores in incremental income generation and supported 250,000+ jobs in local economies.

With AI/ML data-driven credit decision, it offers collateral-free business loans to MSMEs. Their flagship “myKinara” app promises 24-hour disbursements while “HerVikas” programme provides an automatic discount to women entrepreneurs.



Giving fast and flexible loans without collaterals to small business entrepreneurs in India, **Kinara Capital** transforms lives, livelihoods and local economies.



**Hardika Shah**  
Kinara Capital  
Bengaluru, Karnataka



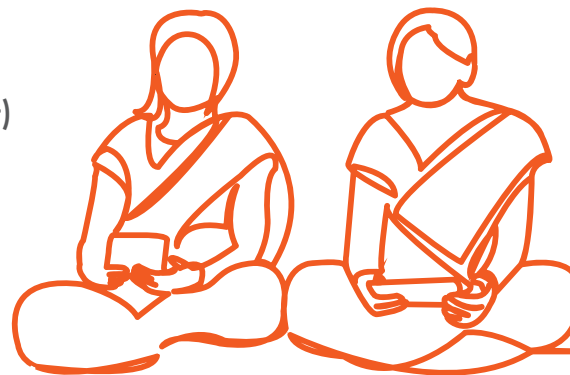
# Rural Mart - A Sustainable Marketplace for Quality Products



**Dipa Chaure**  
Krantijyoti Mahila Bachat Gat (Rural Mart)  
Nagpur, Maharashtra

Krantijyoti Mahila Bachat Gat, has made a name for itself in India. Dipa Chaure's efforts have shown immense success and contributed to a Sashakt aur Samarth Bharat. They provide livelihoods and engage women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) in local rural areas to produce high quality value products.

They are currently facilitating 350-500 women in Nagpur district through employment, product manufacturing, marketing, selling, financing and training services. Their vision is to reach all women in need, in Maharashtra.

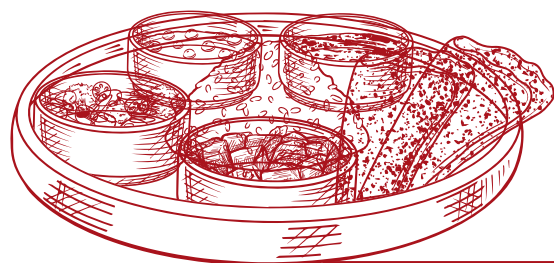


**Rural Mart is**  
Empowering women to take collective decisions in their interest and providing them a platform for financial stability.

# Where Food in the Form of Dumplings is Served with Love and Simplicity

BluePine Foods started with a mission of providing society with high quality authentic cuisines based on traditional recipes handed down from families.

Aditi Bhutia Madan, Founder and Director, promotes sustainability by converting wide range of agro produce into momos and dumplings. They believe in making their products with utmost love and using no preservatives. Their vision is to enable and empower individuals in transforming societies by serving them convenient food, and establishing a feeling of reliability and simplicity. Blue Pine Foods was also featured in the latest reality show - Shark Tank India.



By Providing healthy authentic everyday meals, **BluePine Foods** envisions to be a part of every household in India.

**Aditi Bhutia Madan**

BluePine Foods Pvt. Ltd.  
Faridabad, Haryana

# Revival, Development and Promotion of Languishing Crafts



**Suchitra Sinha**  
Ambalika  
Ranchi, Jharkhand

Mrs. Suchitra Sinha has been working tirelessly for last 25 years for the revival, development and promotion of languishing tribal crafts made by the Sabars in Nimdih Block of Saraikela, a red corridor district in the State of Jharkhand.

Sabars are considered to be the descendants of Sabari, who first tasted the Bers before offering them to Lord Ram. These tribes are on the verge of extinction and are classified as the "poorest among the poor." Overwhelmed by her dedication to their cause, they call her Maa and worship her as a Goddess.



**Ambalika** is reviving dying traditional crafts made by tribal artisans of Jharkhand and providing them with sustainable livelihoods.



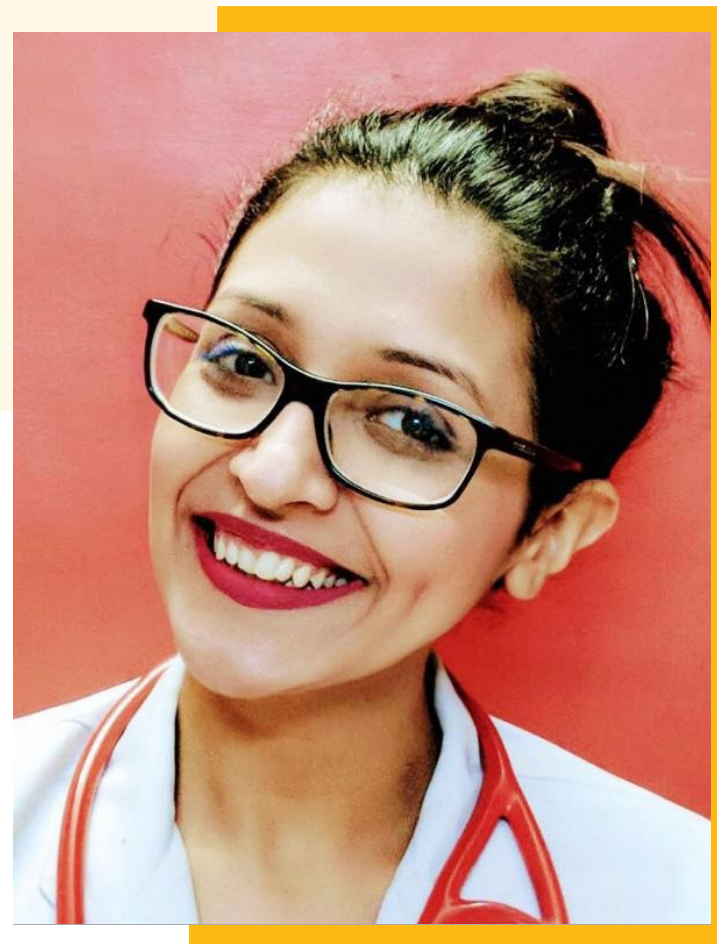
# Fighting Malnutrition and Preventing Health Inequalities Worldwide

Dr. Radhika Batra, Founder and President of Every Infant Matters , initiated a holistic health programme empowering women and promoting deworming, breastfeeding, immunisation, and dispelling harmful myths. Currently in India, Kenya, Nigeria and the Dominican Republic, the teams are serving disadvantaged women and children by providing last mile health solutions.

To prevent irreversible blindness, they distribute Vitamin A to malnourished children and supplements to pregnant women. Their Covid-19 Task Force helped 33,000 patients to get ventilator beds, admissions, and lifesaving surgeries. They believe in justice and inclusion, and work towards promoting gender equality.



Timely interventions and cost effective solutions by **Every Infant Matters** prevents children from disease, disability, blindness and death.



**Dr. Radhika Batra**  
Every Infant Matters  
New Delhi



**Dr. Aparna Hegde**  
ARMMAN  
Mumbai, Maharashtra

## Envisioning a World where Every Woman feels Empowered, and Every Child is Healthy

Dr. Aparna Hegde is the founder of ARMMAN, a not for profit organization, that leverages mHealth technology to create scalable, cost-effective, gender and equity-sensitive, non-linear solutions to reduce maternal and child mortality and morbidity in 19 states of India.

Their integrated 360 degree approach uses deep mobile penetration to work with pregnant women and children aged under 5. They also support health workers and systems in early identification, referral, and treatment of risk factors, resulting in improved health outcomes. It has reached 27 million women and children, and trained 229,000 frontline health workers, with plans to scale pan-India in the coming 5 years.



Managing the largest  
mhealth programme in  
partnership with MoHFW,  
**ARMMAN** is implementing  
the Kilkari and the Mobile  
Academy.

# Empowering and Encouraging Women to Actively Participate in the Defence Sector

Ms Priti Patel is the Chairperson and Managing Director for a Women Centric Defence Manufacturing Company. Raspian Enterprises was established to manufacture state of the art Small Arms Weapon Systems and Security & Defence Products. It caters to the Indian and Global defence requirements which are unrivalled in reliability, quality and cost efficiency.

She heads a team of experts who work on continuous R&D for product improvements, mainly focused on indigenization of latest technologies. She envisions women of India to participate actively in the Defence and the Security sector.



**Raspian Enterprises** contributes substantially to making India a self-reliant country in arms and armament for women.



**Priti Patel**  
Raspian Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.  
Rajkot, Gujarat





**Jo Aggarwal**  
Touchkin eServices Private Limited (Wysa)  
Bangalore, Karnataka

## Providing People with an Emotional Resilience tool for Mental Health

Jo Aggarwal launched the chatbot 'Wysa' in 2016 after her own struggle with depression. She realized the power of Cognitive Behavior Training, a skill to be learnt. The name 'Wysa' comes from Eliza, which was the first such chatbot ever created. Five years and 700 iterations later, Wysa has helped over 4 million people, most of whom had no other mental health support.

The hundreds and thousands of stories of transformation that people have shared after talking to Wysa, have been personally the most meaningful learning for the team.



**Wysa** is giving mental health support and transforming lives by leveraging technology and establishing one to one connects.



# Handcrafted Silver Jewellery that Derives Inspiration from History, and has a Unique Story

Aadyaa is premium, handcrafted silver jewellery brand creating collections based on history, revival, nature and abstraction. Sayalee Marathe, Founder of Aadyaa works with artisans to create authentic silver jewellery and make it available worldwide.

It has been incubated at IIM Bengaluru and is a part of Cornell University's first cohort of accelerator programme with Maharashtra. They aim to create well researched, authentic and handcrafted pure silver creations.



Tradition, soul and happiness are **Aadyaa's** key pillars, striving to create silver products inspired by nature and history.

**Sayalee Marathe**  
Aadyaa Originals Pvt. Ltd.  
Pune, Maharashtra



**Victoria Joslin D'Souza**  
Swachha Eco Solutions Pvt. Ltd.  
Bangalore, Karnataka

## Gifting the Coming Generations a Zero Waste Future

Set up in 2008 by Mrs Victoria Joslin D'Souza, Swachha is on a mission to make a difference in the ever changing landscape of waste management. They have an MOU with the Municipal Corporation of Bengaluru (BBMP) to set-up Karnataka's First Dry Waste Processing Centre.

This has led to a collection drive of dry waste for more than 54 wards of Bengaluru for recycling. The team at Swachha ensures that they never lose track of the trends, regulations and compliance related to waste management industry. They have successfully diverted 28,871 tons of waste from landfill so far.




**Swachha** promises a clean, green and sustainable future for everyone.

# Inspiring a Billion Lives with Stories of Hope, Courage and Initiative

Anuradha Parekh has influenced millions of Indians to be part of the solution rather than remain part of the problem. Her initiative 'The Better India' has provided access to information, awareness and hope – empowering readers to become changemakers in their own ways. It shares stories that have positively influenced government policies, brought farmers out of poverty, helped urban slum schools get funded, brought water and sanitation in villages, to name a few.

She has challenged the media landscape in the country and changed the narrative from one of despair and demotivation to one that is inspiring and action-oriented.



**The Better India** is changing mindsets from one that considers itself part of the problem to one that wants to be a part of the solution.

## Anuradha Parekh

Vikara Services Pvt. Ltd. (The Better India)  
Bengaluru, Karnataka



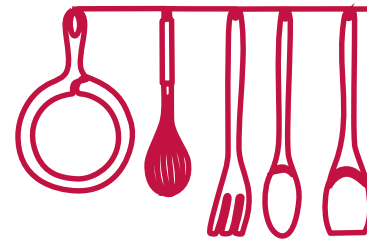
# Reimagining Bamboo Products to Create Rural Employment



**Akshya Shree**  
Tad Udyog Pvt. Ltd. (Silpakarman)  
Delhi & Tripura

Akshya Shree has launched two brands, 'Silpakarman' and 'BeYouTea - The bamboo leaves tea'. Silpakarman provides home and kitchen utility products handmade by 250+ artisans across 5 clusters in rural Tripura. Each product is carefully crafted using organic and traditional methods.

'BeYouTea', their recently launched flagship product, a patent-pending blend, creates rural employment. It engages community members who have lost their jobs and had to come back to their villages due to the pandemic and have no income opportunities.



**Tad Udyog** (Silpakarman) is creating a sustainable rural economy value chain system that empowers the communities in bamboo growing regions and provides customers sustainable product alternatives.

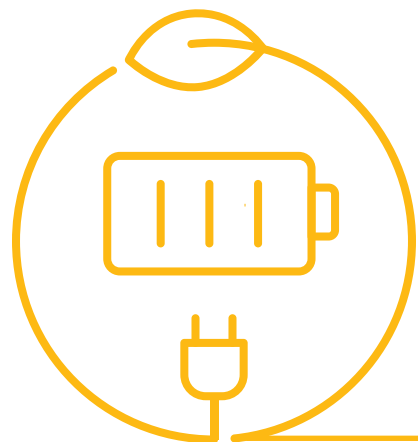
# Putting Environment First and Reimagining Batteries

Nimisha Varma wears many hats. To solve the problems of e-waste, pollution and diseases caused by hazardous batteries, Aloe Ecell created the world's first 100% eco-friendly and safe 1.5V AA size batteries using Aloe Vera. The product has been recognized by the Indian government and corporates like Schneider Electric. In pursuit of Atmanirbhar and Sashakt farmers, Nimisha's team has innovated India's first 100% eco-friendly recycled fertilizer from dead batteries. Aloe Ecell has also launched Batteries on Blockchain- a battery tracing mechanism to collect e-waste and promote Swachh Bharat.

In the recent pandemic, they launched a very economical face-shield and a peer-to-peer educational model (Naya Savera) to help rural India.



**Nimisha Varma**  
Aloe Ecell Pvt. Ltd.  
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh



**Aloe Ecell**, World's First 100% Eco-Friendly Non Hazardous Battery should be the solution for all Battery problems.

# Investing in and Up-skilling of Local Communities to Create World Class Products



**Chayaa Nanjappa**  
Nectar Fresh  
Mandya, Karnataka

Chayaa Nanjappa is a rural social entrepreneur & her brand Nectar Fresh has been empowering tribals, rural communities and small farmers for the past 13 years. Today, Nectar Fresh is synonymous with the word 'quality' & has become a preferred brand for the quality conscious markets. It has invested in the local communities, training them to manufacture products of international standards.

As a farm gate processing unit, it has helped numerous farmers avoid the spoilage of their produce. Chayaa's initiative of supporting local farmers & local manufacturers of packaging materials helped them immensely while bringing down costs for Nectar Fresh.



**Nectar Fresh**, a market leader in quality products, is creating an enviable presence through strict adherence to strong business ethics. They adhere to their core values of supporting small farmers and empowering tribal and rural communities.



# From the Farmer's Heart to your Plate

Greentatwa is a social enterprise that believes natural farming contributes to sustainability. Roopa Maganti supports rural women agripreneurs by creating livelihoods at the grassroots level and providing residue-free food to keep her consumers healthy through their brand 'Sudhanya'. They connect the three cornerstones - Farmers, Agripreneurs, and Consumers, and reduce carbon footprints in the food supply chain through a cluster-based approach.

Giving geotag to their farms through satellite imagery allows them to understand the soil health, weather and water resources and assist the farmers in scientific and systematic farming. Greentatwa supports rural agripreneurs engaged in processing grains and producing value-added products, with quality control, packaging, branding, and market reachability.



**Greentatwa** envisions fostering a holistic, sustainable development with symbiosis of 5Ps... Planet, People, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships.



**Roopa Maganti**  
Greentatwa Agri Tech LLP  
Hyderabad, Telangana

“An important attribute of success is to be yourself. Never hide what makes you, you.”

- Indra Nooyi







**Tanuja Abburi**  
Transformation Skills India  
Pvt. Ltd. (Beyond Pinks)  
Hyderabad, Telangana

## Tech Platform for Enabling, Reskilling and Mentoring Women

A true pathfinder, Tanuja is known for many noteworthy milestones and contributions towards developing and nurturing talent. In her current avatar as an entrepreneur and founder of Transformation Skills India Pvt. Ltd (Beyond Pinks), she has leveraged her passion and expertise in talent development to provide a support system for women to sustain their careers, return to their job and flourish in their careers.

Prioritizing women at the grassroots level, her organization, supported by NITI Aayog, is a tech-enabled mentoring solution which uses Design Thinking to solve the D&I challenge. They have mentored over 4000+ women so far and nurtured critical partnerships with industry bodies like HYSEA and NHRD.

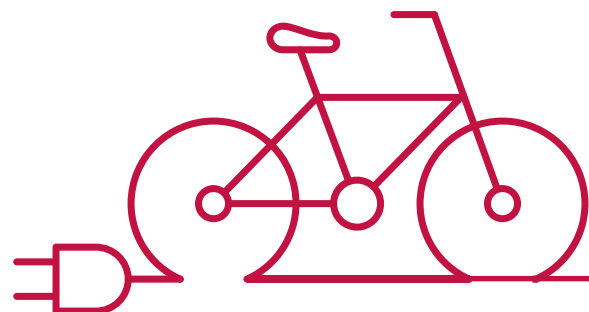


**Beyond Pinks**, an all-women organization supports mentoring women with over 50+ areas of mentoring and 150+ mentors from over 60+ blue-chip organizations. Their vision is to impact 10,000 lives by 2022 and 1 Lakh lives by 2025.

# Promoting Green Mobility Amongst the Masses

Sulajja set up an e-mobility venture over 5 years ago, when EV technology was nascent with more disbelievers than supporters. She showed exemplary vision and courage to enter a new field and successfully turned that dream into a reality. She invested in developing advanced EV technology, including indigenous motors, controllers and batteries. Under her leadership, Kinetic Green has reached 100% localization.

She created advanced yet affordable e-three wheelers and two-wheelers for the masses - an e-auto for Rs. 1 lakh, aligned with Kinetic's vision that it's vehicles should attract customers without any subsidy. Her company has sold over 50,000 EVs and created mass employment.



**Kinetic Green** is a leading player in India's EV sector. It is building a robust PAN India EV ecosystem to promote Green Mobility for the Masses.

**Sulajja Firodia Motwani**  
Kinetic Green Energy and Power  
Solutions  
Pune, Maharashtra



**Prachi Kaushik**  
Vyomini Social Enterprise  
Mathura, Uttar Pradesh

## Providing Sustainable Sanitary Health across India

Prachi, a young social activist, founded Vyomini in 2017 to solve social, economic, and environmental challenges. Vyomini aspires to build a robust ecosystem that enables women-led entrepreneurship and leadership in emerging high impact sectors like clean energy, agriculture and nutrition, health and sanitation.

They are a group of outstanding young women with exceptional leadership skills, promoting sustainable sanitation hygiene products & entrepreneurship among underprivileged communities.



**Vyomini** believes that excluded and resource-poor communities can be revitalized through economic growth and social progress if the untapped potential of grassroots women entrepreneurs is realized.



# Providing Unique Drought Solution by Reusing Floodwater

Trupti Jain has a distinguished career of working with Non-profits, institutions promoted by the State Government (Education Department, Women & Child Development, Urban Development and Rural Department). Her social enterprise Naireeta Services Pvt. Ltd. (NSPL) is creating gender centric climate change mitigating processes for inclusive development of urban and rural poor women. NSPL is promoting 'Bhungroo', a world bank awarded water irrigation technology.

She is pursuing Zero Hunger, No Poverty, Gender Equality and Climate Action through Women Climate Leaders for ultra-poor women smallholders across India, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Africa.



**Trupti Jain**

Naireeta Services Pvt. Ltd.  
Ahmedabad, Gujarat

**Naireeta Services** is resurrecting Mahatma Gandhi's principle of Antodaya, serving the last person in the queue in the best possible ways.





**Richa Singh**  
YourDOST Health Solutions Pvt. Ltd.  
Bangalore, Karnataka

## Providing Mental Health Coaching and Counselling

A personal loss of losing a friend to suicide in Richa's engineering days gave birth to the idea of building a tech-based anonymous solution. Her company, YourDOST, is one of India's largest emotional wellness platforms. Through its holistic approach, it provides intervention at individual, team, and leadership levels to create an empathetic and high-performing culture.

The technology platform provides access to 900+ psychologists and coaches for 1 on 1 counselling, self-help tools, training, assessments etc.



**YourDOST** is on the mission to build a happier and healthier India, one smile to many more smiles at a time.

# Making Eco-friendly Reusables the Mainstream Choice for Menstrual Hygiene

Anju Bist and her team are the first in the world to make reusable menstrual pads from banana fiber, which comes from agro-waste. Saukhyam Reusable Pads have won multiple awards and are sold internationally. Their vision is that the same high-quality pad they export should be made available at very affordable prices in rural areas of India.

To date, they have sold and distributed over 500,000 pads, helping prevent the emission of over 2000 tons of CO2 equivalent annually. This has also helped eliminate an estimated 43,750 tons of non-biodegradable menstrual waste.



**Amrita SeRVe** is providing high-quality affordable menstrual pads made of banana fiber to women and girls everywhere.

**Anju Bist**

Amrita SeRVe (Saukhyam Reusable Pad)  
Kollam, Kerala





# Equipping Communities to Create Products from Local, Green, Eco-friendly Materials

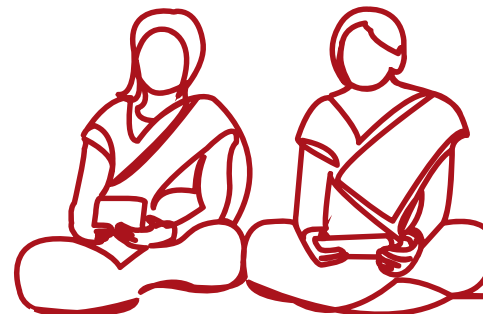


**Payal Nath**  
Kadam Haat  
Kolkata, West Bengal

Payal Nath co-founded Kadam Haat & Kadam Foundation, an upskilling initiative for rural artisans. Kadam Haat is a handicrafts store for both. The two organizations work in tandem to skill, create opportunities for, and provide sustainable livelihoods to marginalized communities in rural India. Using Green, 100% eco-friendly local materials like grasses and Green technology, Kadam has been training and bringing livelihood opportunities directly to their homes, 85% of them being women.

Making the rural enterprises equal stakeholders in this journey, they are today taking ownership and inspiring their peers.

**Kadam Haat** weaves a dream where the richness of rural lives is unleashed, every pair of hands has work, technology supports the communities and their environment, and every mind is creatively building Bharat.



# Bridging the Growing Healthcare Disparity

iHeal HealthTech Pvt. Ltd. is an award-winning MedTech startup that is making innovative Medical Devices Accessible to end-users across India. Under the dynamic leadership of Romita Ghosh as the CEO, it supported Delhi Govt. in combating COVID-19 and assisted in saving 20,000+ lives during the crisis.

They have been strengthening Sashakt aur Samarth Bharat Missions by upskilling students, youth and the communities and have already trained over 20k+ enthusiastic individuals. Over the years they have impacted 50k lives with preventive and supportive healthcare products.



**Romita Ghosh**

iHeal HealthTech Pvt. Ltd.  
Delhi



**iHeal HealthTech** is making healthcare accessible and affordable a tangible reality for every Indian.

# Empowering the Next Generation of Innovators to Solve Real World Problems



**Pooja Sharma Goyal**  
Building Blocks Learning  
Solutions Pvt. Ltd.  
Bangalore, Karnataka

Building Blocks Learning Solutions Pvt. Ltd., has been instrumental in empowering children and schools to innovate using next generation technology skills. As a Co-founder, Pooja has been a long-time champion for experiential learning that inspires children to become problem solvers, builders and makers who are fearless when it comes to seeking solutions to solve complex real-world problems.

Their kits and courses under the brand name Avishkaar help children between 5-18 years learn critical 21st century skills like Computational Thinking, Mechanical Design and Design Thinking. They are building a powerful virtual robotics platform that will enable every child in India to learn these critical technology skills.



Team **Avishkaar** believes every young child has an innovator hidden within them and they support in creating the next generation of innovators.



# Keeping Plastics in the Economy and out of the Environment

Meha Lahiri's entrepreneurial journey at Recity has not only been about solving India's systemic plastic waste challenges in 12+ cities through circular economy solutions, but also nurturing a gender-neutral and resilient culture towards building a healthy workforce. Recity has also tirelessly been working towards professionalization of formal and informal waste workers.

Since inception, over 69% women waste workers have been impacted with the help of health modules and medical camps, coupled with skill-based and entrepreneurship trainings, social recognition and government authorized benefits such as e-shram and occupational IDs.



**Recity** has been championing impactful outcomes to ensure standardization of green supply chains and robust tech-enabled solutions.



**Meha Lahiri**  
Recity Network Pvt. Ltd.  
Mumbai, Maharashtra

# Empowering Women with Sustainable, Affordable and Hygienic Menstrual Health Solutions



**Geeta Solanki**  
Unipads India Pvt. Ltd.  
Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Unipads, founded by Geeta Solanki, is a social business established with a vision to provide affordable and hygienic menstrual health solutions to women. Unipads engages them in manufacturing cost effective reusable/washable cloth sanitary pads and making these available in remote areas.

Their manufacturing allows them to reduce the costs by almost 50% over standard disposable pads with its lifecycle of 1 year. Direct customer availability is made by empanelling Women Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE) known as Kalyanis. Currently they work with 96+ Kalyanis across their network.

**Unipads** ensures women have access to affordable and hygienic menstrual products and supporting livelihoods by engaging women level entrepreneurs.



# Building Women-led Social Enterprises

Working on the socio-economic transformation of women from the most vulnerable communities, Neelam Chibber co-founded Indus Tree. Their work is redefining Indian and global artisanal manufacturing systems as being pivotal to the next Regenerative Economy. It strategizes an experiential model to create a self-owned ecosystem for sustainable livelihoods.

This model has tripled artisanal incomes in non-farm occupations by leveraging their skills and integrating them in the creative sector. Their outreach has extended to 500,000 lives across India and Africa and built cumulative markets of 58 Million USD across IKEA, Future Group, FabIndia etc.



**Indus Tree** envisions a world in which millions of producers rise out of poverty by building sustainable livelihoods within regenerative production practices.



**Neelam Chibber**

Indus Tree Crafts Foundation  
Bengaluru, Karnataka

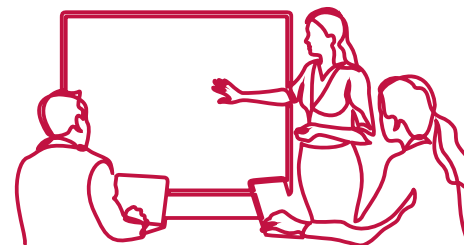


# Adopting Pathbreaking Teaching and Learning Approach

Suchetha joined Dream a Dream as a volunteer in 2007. Over the years, she has driven the scale and strategic direction of the organization. Today, as the CEO of Dream a Dream, she leads with an unparalleled depth of understanding of a young person's journey.

They have helped introduce new holistic curriculums, transform teacher training/learning practices, change pedagogical approaches to learning, redesign core curriculum frameworks and inspired the ecosystem to shift mindsets towards 'For Every Child, A Thriving Life' as the core purpose of education. Dream A Dream has reached over 3 million children in India.

**Dream a Dream** is working to shift the narrative from an academics focused education model to a personalized, contextualized model. It works towards ensuring equity, dignity, and inclusion.



**Suchetha Bhat**  
Dream a Dream  
Bengaluru, Karnataka

# Building a Robust Ecosystem in the Education and Special Needs Domain

Chahat Vasal co-founded NerdNerdy Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a research-driven technology and product startup in the field of education and special needs. NerdNerdy's first-of-its-kind, robust end-to-end technology solution address the various problems faced by professionals in the special needs sector.

They have developed 300+ indigenous, hands-on intervention tools that assist professionals in conducting therapy. It has also set up special resource rooms in 18 Army Public Schools and was a finalist in the National StartUp India Awards 2021.



**NerdNerdy** aims to become an intelligent knowledge and solution provider for each stakeholder in the field of special needs education.

**Chahat Vasal**  
NerdNerdy Technologies Pvt. Ltd.  
Gurgaon, Haryana





**Mayura Balasubramanian**  
Craftizen Foundation  
Bengalore, Karnataka

## Craft Architects - Building Bridges between the Crafts and Corporate Sectors

Mayura has expertise across the entire handicrafts value chain from sourcing, grassroots capacity building, and design development to improving operational efficiency and enabling marketing across multiple channels. Her company, Craftizen, skills disadvantaged sections of society who do not have access to mainstream income-earning, including adults with intellectual disability and underprivileged women in urban, rural & tribal areas. They provide support across the crafts value chain.

Craftizen has developed 250+ unique designs from over 30 different craft skills, impacting over 2,500 beneficiaries across Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Lucknow. Craftizen has a range of initiatives, including CSR programmes for craft-based livelihoods, customized merchandise solutions, workshops and employee engagement.



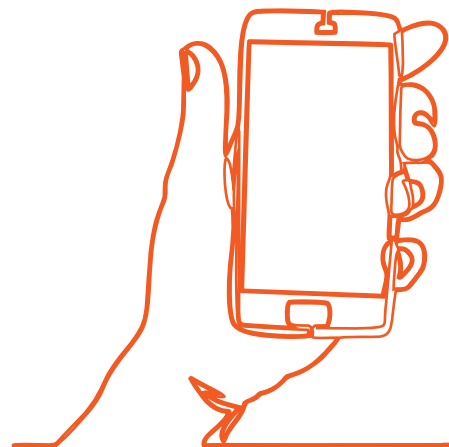
**Craftizen** envisions preserving and evolving Indian craft and artisanal skills so that they remain an integral part of our cultural fabric.



# Building Assistive- Technology Innovations to Empower Visually-Impaired

Akshita Sachdeva, in her company, Trestle Labs, is building assistive technology solutions that help visually impaired people listen, translate and digitize any kind of printed, handwritten and digital content across 60+ global languages. Their flagship innovative product, Kibo comprises of three products - Kibo mobile app, Kibo XS Device and Kibo Desk web software to cater to the lifestyle, learning and earning aspects of the users' life.

Launched in July 2019, their products make schools, colleges, universities, and workplaces inclusive and empower 65,000+ blind and visually impaired individuals with enhanced academic and workplace productivity.



**Trestle Labs** is empowering the visually-impaired by giving them the right to choose what they want to access, read and learn, and when, without being dependent on what the world can make accessible for them.

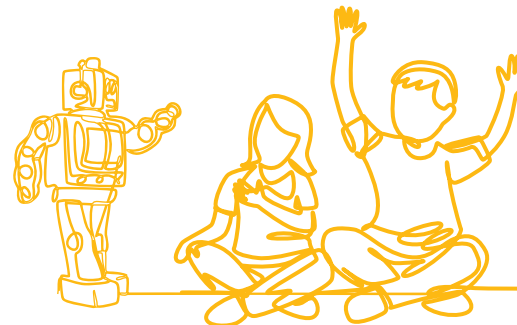
**Akshita Sachdeva**  
Trestle Labs Pvt. Ltd.  
Bengaluru, Karnataka

# Groundbreaking Application of Robotics in Special Education

Dr Ramya has worked with hundreds of children across the country, providing learning acceleration by more than 60%. Nimaya Innovations is a culmination of her expertise and 5 years of research. Nimaya has created a series of IoT based Robotic Training devices and an end-to-end training programme called Suprayoga to help individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other multiple disabilities. It trains them to acquire Daily Life activities and associated psychomotor skills based on active learning. Its screening tool GITA is launched in various languages.

Nimaya is on its way to becoming an end-to-end, state-of-the-art platform, offering screening assessment and training.

**“Nimaya”** means to “create a change” in Sanskrit and that is exactly what they are trying to do for millions of special needs children by helping them progress towards independent living.



**Dr. Ramya S Moorthy**  
Nimaya Innovations Pvt. Ltd.  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu

# Carving out Paths, and Giving them Destinations

With a firm belief that economic empowerment is a powerful tool, Hina Shah began working on this idea in the year 1983, keeping in mind how socio-cultural, political, physical and religious fields have a direct impact on the lives of women. The first programme, termed as Entrepreneurship Development programme for women, started with only 25 women of Gujarat, whose businesses are still doing well. This clearly demonstrated the sustainability of the development approach for achieving women's economic empowerment. In 1986, she also started The International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Career Development (ICECD). Hina's relentless efforts to change the face of the deprived, dependent women of rural and tribal India has created a noteworthy impact.

The women improved their status as they began their little businesses, started earning, and making profits for a sustainable and independent living. Hina Shah considers this as a tribute to the humanity and wants to do much more.



## Dr. Hina Shah

International Centre for  
Entrepreneurship and Career  
Development (ICECD)  
Ahmedabad, Gujarat



**ICECD** is building an "Entrepreneurial Society", by facilitating access / control of women on productive resources leading to social and economic empowerment.





**Dr. Gayathri Vasudevan**  
LabourNet Services India Pvt. Ltd.  
Bengaluru, Karnataka

# Scaling Livelihoods through Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship

Dr Gayatri Vasudevan, Co-founder and Chairperson of LabourNet is a true visionary. In the year 2021-22, when the pandemic was at its peak, LabourNet impacted the lives of 18,000 students who were motivated to enroll for short term courses. 27,000 adolescents benefitted from vocational training programmes, and 500 students enrolled for B.Voc programme.

There were 19,000 certifications issued under RPL, 3,000 benefitted under their apprenticeship programme, 2,000 entrepreneurs received trainings and over 6 lakh people got vaccinated against COVID-19.

With a mission to improve the incomes of individuals in the informal sector, **LabourNet Services** designs sustainable interventions with Education, Employability and Entrepreneurship at the core.



# Magical Hands with Mystic Colors

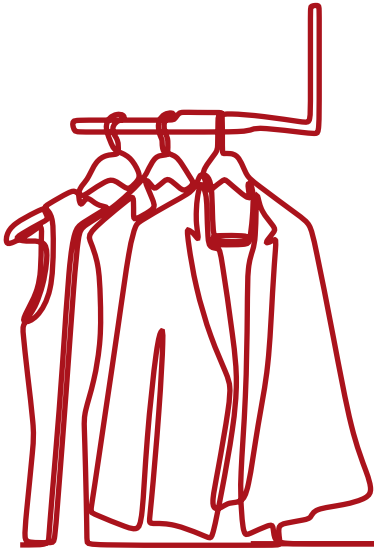
Kirti built Okhai, offering handcrafted apparel and lifestyle products created by rural artisans from across India. Okhai has become India's largest Direct to Consumer Apparel & Lifestyle marketplace for artisans to retail directly to customers.

Under her leadership and guidance, she has scaled the organization from 350 to 27,000 artisans, achieving 10X the revenue in just 6 years.



**Kirti Poonia**

Okhai  
Mumbai, Maharashtra



**Okhai** aims to create livelihood opportunities for rural women artisans and protect ancient crafts from dying.





**Samina Bano**  
RightWalk Foundation  
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

# Realising Sustainable Social Change through Public Policy

RightWalk drives equity, inclusion & social justice by co-shaping public policies, unlocking public funds and making public entitlements accessible to disadvantaged people. It was founded by Samina Bano, and since its inception, she has prioritized Social Inclusion. This has remained the hallmark of RightWalk's practice.

The team has the knowledge and experience to bring key issues to decision-makers, committees, state agencies, and communities. It is known for bringing a mindset shift from exclusion to inclusion in politics, bureaucracy, media, public and schools.



**RightWalk Foundation** is driving equality, inclusion and social justice by co-shaping public policies, unlocking public funds and making public rights accessible to people on the ground.



# Towards a Sustainable Environment and Society

Founded by Dr. Girija K Bharat, Mu Gamma Consultants Pvt. Ltd. is working towards promoting an environmentally conscious society. This is achieved by improving the quality of life of communities through environment friendly solutions, drawing knowledge from global best practices and applying this to the local context.

They conduct research on water and sanitation (rural and urban), waste management, environmental management, water resource management. This mission is supported by the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA).



**Mu Gamma Consultants** is improving the quality of life of communities by offering contextualized environment friendly solutions, drawing knowledge from global best practices .

**Dr. Girija K Bharat**  
Mu Gamma Consultants Pvt. Ltd.  
Gurugram, Haryana



**Gitanjali J Angmo**  
Himalayan Institute of Alternatives  
Leh, Ladakh

## Reimagining and Transforming Education for Communities by Combining Indigenous Wisdom

Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh (HIAL) is the world's first doer's university, that combines Academics, Research and Entrepreneurship through a curriculum that is contextual. The pedagogy is experientially conducted through real-life experience, and the approach is trans-disciplinary, problem solving, combining indigenous wisdom with modern technology.

As the Co-Founder, CEO & Dean, Gitanjali leads Academic Development that includes setting up of new schools & centres of excellence, curriculum design & development. She also facilitates fund-raising and scaling-up of the successful research pilots into consulting assignments and sustainable & responsible local enterprises.



**Himalayan institute of Alternatives** is empowering youth and communities with a contextualized educational experience.

# Embracing Biological formulations for Chemical Free Healthcare

Meteoric Biopharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd. is a first generation, research driven, integrated and diversified global biopharma leader. Puunam G Kaushik, Deputy Managing Director works towards 'Innovation through Discovery', the company today services over 500 customers across 50 industries in over 90 countries. Today, Meteoric Biopharmaceuticals has become a one-stop solution for all biological requirements across Enzymes, Probiotics, Nutraceutical, Finished Formulations, and Animal Health Care.

They continuously work towards introducing novel ingredients and formulations in the Biopharmaceuticals market by innovative research techniques and finest service & quality standards by strong technical support.



**Meteoric Biopharmaceuticals** is carving its niche through a commitment to quality & novel biotech solutions for foods & pharma sector.



**Puunam G Kaushik**

Meteoric Biopharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.  
Ahmedabad, Gujarat



“Giving up was never an option for me, no matter how hard the circumstances. Each of us is fighting our own battles. But as long as we are determined to remain steadfast, we will reach our goal.”

- Pabiben Rabari





### Shaheen Mistri

Teach For India & The  
Akanksha Foundation  
Mumbai, Maharashtra

## Building a Movement of Leaders to Eliminate Educational Inequity

Shaheen founded Teach For India in 2008 with the audacious vision of providing an excellent education to all children across India by building a movement of leaders committed to ending educational inequity in India. Today, Teach For India impacts 32,000 children through the direct work of over 900 Fellows and 250 staff members across eight cities and has produced over 9,100 student alumni.

Additionally, their Alumni community is 3,800+ members strong, impacting 1 million children directly and reaching 33 million children indirectly.



**Teach For India's** work for children over three decades has mobilized thousands of people to work together for systemic change in education



# Biotech Initiative Aspiring to Build Entrepreneurial Skills through a Scientific Approach

Aardra is a biotech engineer, entrepreneur and an entrepreneurship researcher. She is the founder and Managing Director of Aeka Biochemicals Pvt. Ltd., the first fully women-owned environmental biotech company in India. She is passionate about making science and entrepreneurship accessible to all those interested in these fields, especially women.

Aardra holds an MRes in management from UCL, an MSc in management from Warwick Business School, and a Bachelors in biotechnology and biochemical engineering from the University of Kerala.



**Aeka Biochemicals** is helping to incorporate green user friendly options which are effective, and have a focus on urban cultivation, water treatment, recycling, remediation or waste management. A significant contribution towards reducing “human footprints” on Earth.

**Aardra Chandra Mouli**

Aeka Biochemicals Pvt. Ltd.  
Trivandrum, Kerala



**Dr. Susmita Mohanty**  
Earth2Orbit  
Bengalore, Karnataka

## Launching an Advisory, Earth Observation Data Analytics and Exploring New Vistas in Space

Susmita Mohanty is the only space entrepreneur in the world to have started companies on three different continents: USA, Europe and India. Her Indian venture Earth2Orbit (E2O) is India's first space start-up and has helped lead India's foray into the nearly \$420 billion global space market. E2O played a pivotal role in opening up the US launch market for the Indian PSLV rocket despite the 1998 US Embargo and a stringent export control regime.

In 2019, Susmita was selected as one of BBC's 100 Women laureates inspiring and influencing a female-led future. In 2017, she was featured on the cover of Fortune Magazine. She is a member of the World Economic Forum Global Future Council for Space Technologies.



**Earth2Orbit** is leading India's foray into the global space marketplace by inspiring the new generation to dream and reach for the stars.

# Leading Women with Special Abilities from Darkness to Light

NAB India Centre empowers blind women to realize their dreams of dignified living and self-reliance by offering professional, market-aligned and skill-based training and services as a lifelong support and offer financial independence. Shalini Khanna Sodhi, Founder Director has done pioneering work in equipping blind girls in skills like Customer Care management, Executive Spa Therapist, Bakery etc.

Blind Women often face discrimination, and are left out of the mainstream society, they are also trained in table etiquettes, self-defense, sexual health, and personal grooming. This helps to bridge the gap and accords them opportunities for fair inclusion in the society.



**Shalini Khanna Sodhi**

NAB India Centre for Blind Women  
and Disability Studies  
Delhi



**NAB India Centre** aims to make every invisible blind woman, an invincible force - driving a paradigm shift in India for women with disabilities.





**Dr. Darshana Joshi**  
VigyanShaala International  
Almora, Uttarakhand

## Creating Opportunities for STEM Careers, by Building Ecosystems

Dr. Darshana Joshi, Founder and CEO of VigyanShaala is determined to create equity in STEM education and opportunities for the most marginalized communities across India. Carefully developed ecosystems can reduce inequality and uplift the marginalized sections to build careers in STEM. The organization is building unique 'Phy-gital' ecosystems addressing the STEM opportunity gap by Kalpana - She for STEM. This is a digital mentorship programme bringing scientific opportunities for women and creating Rural STEM-champions as part of their fellowship model. As a part of this initiative, there are physical science labs provided to rural STEM undergraduates which help them to work on innovative models under full support and mentorship.

VigyanShaala has created a knowledge and inspiration pipeline which connects rural colleges to global Mentors by providing them hands-on laboratory experience and leadership training.



Creating a better world through science, the mission of **VigyanShaala** is to enable innovators to achieve their dreams in STEM careers.

# Promoting Sustainable Development, Empowering Women's Collectives

Prema Gopalan founded Swayam Shikshan Prayog to empower grassroots women's networks & communities across Maharashtra, Kerala, Bihar and Odisha states. Her work has empowered 300,000+ rural women as entrepreneurs and change makers. They are building resilient communities across 7 climate hit States in India, positively impacting over six million people.

Under her guidance, over 150,000 rural women have been repositioned as climate adaptive farmers who are also decision makers with land rights and incomes.



Fulfilling its mission since 1998, **Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP)** is transforming grassroots women from beneficiaries to decision makers.

**Prema Gopalan**  
Swayam Shikshan Prayog  
Pune, Maharashtra

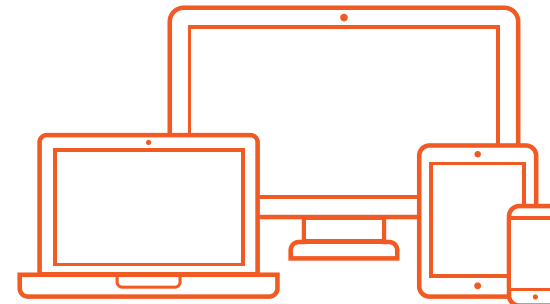


# Ensuring After Sales Tech Support for All Your Gadgets

Bigfix Gadget Care LLP is a multibrand gadget care centre, operational since 2012, founded by Dhevibala Umamaheswaran. Today BigFix, is a leader in providing cost-efficient repair solutions for mobile phones, computer laptops, desktops & tablets. It connects brands with customers through service partners to perform aftersales activities and specialize in End-to-End managed services.

They also provide out of warranty support through retail care centre and e-commerce enabled logistics service delivery models.

**BigFix Gadget Care** aims to professionalize the break-fix industry and identify, up-skill and create employment opportunities to certified blue collar technicians through their network.



**Dhevibala Umamaheswaran**  
Bigfix Gadget Care LLP  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu



# Ensuring Knowledge About Safety is Just a Click Away

Megha Bhatia is the director of Our Voix, a not for-profit organization working on the prevention of child sexual abuse. Our Voix has been building digital animated movies and courses to help children and teachers identify abuse and speak up. The content of Our Voix has benefited 4 Lakh indirect beneficiaries in 8+ states and 18,000 children directly, also talks about sexual abuse.

She has been selected as one of the top 10 innovators in the field of gender equality, "Innovations Marketplace for Gender Equality" programme by Youth Co:Lab.



**Megha Bhatia**

Our Voix  
Delhi



**Our Voix's** Child Safety Courses, give children the right resources to speak up and stay safe in today's world.

# Engaging Stakeholders for Scaling Systemic Transformation in Education



**Khushboo Awasthi**  
Mantra Social Services  
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Mantra4Change, co-founded by Khushboo Awasthi is a not for profit organization committed to creating an enriching learning experience for children in public schools. The team firmly believes that systemic transformation in education is impossible without collaboration at every level. Their mission is to enable education leaders to drive sustainable improvements in 1.5 Lac schools by 2025.

Towards this, they design & implement programmes with the Department of School Education across states, and have orchestrated an ecosystem of like-minded NGOs in order to scale the idea of systemic transformation.

**Mantra** is enabling an enriching learning experience for children, handholding the education leaders to drive continuous school improvements.



# Envisioning a World Without Human Trafficking and Exploitation

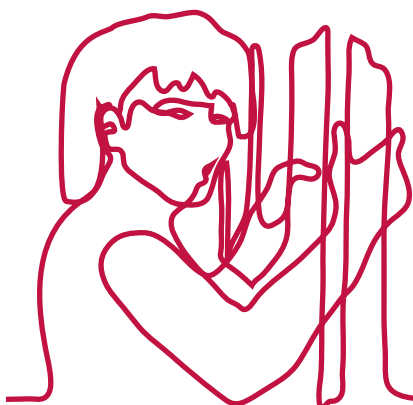
For 32 years now, Hasina Kharbhih, has been working to provide sustainable livelihood in a safe environment for 30,000 women in the North Eastern states of India. What started out as a mission in her home state of Meghalaya, has today evolved into a global programme that aims to put an end to human trafficking and exploitation worldwide.

Her work stands on two pillars: the first is Impulse NGO Network which was conceptualised in 1987 and is a significant force against human trafficking today. The second pillar is Impulse Social Enterprises which aims to promote local artisans and create sustainable livelihood and covering more than 7000 artisans in eight North Eastern States.



**Hasina Kharbhih**

Impulse NGO Network  
Shillong, Meghalaya



Team **Impluse** believes human trafficking can't be completely stopped until women at the grassroots becomes economically self sufficient.





**Anita Kumari**  
Madhopur Farmers Producer  
Company Ltd.  
Bihar sharif, Bihar

## Ensuring Advancement of Small and Marginal Farmers

Anita Kumari, an agricultural women entrepreneur by profession, works in cultivation of mushroom, mushroom span production, beekeeping, horticultural and cereal crops. She is also well known as 'Mushroom Lady', as her production of mushrooms has won several awards as well.

Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) are agricultural cooperatives that are emerging as a practical approach towards empowering a great number of smallholder farmers and ensuring their prosperity. She envisions imparting training and handholding assistance to FPOs for their development and evolution into effective enterprises.

**Madhopur Farmers** is assisting Farmer Producer Organizations through entrepreneurial development for establishing effective enterprises.



# An Omni-Channel Platform for New Age Food and Beverage Brands - A Win-Win Enterprise

Anju has set up a unique socially inclusive business model in the food and beverage sector. The "WIN" of Wingreens comes from the Women's Initiative Network which skills and empowers underprivileged women to make world class products. Wingreens also has a farming model where it works with marginal farmers to give them technical knowhow and predictable income.

Their products are sold in over 250 cities in India and the range spans dips, sauces, mayonnaise, baked chips, wide range of organic products, bakery premixes and herbs and seasonings.



**Anju Srivastava**  
Wingreens Farms Pvt. Ltd.  
Gurgaon, Haryana

**Wingreens** is based on a socially inclusive business model in which the less privileged sections of society become the pillars of the organization.







**Aditi Avasthi**  
Individual Learning Ltd. (Embibe)  
Bangalore, Karnataka

# Providing Personalized Achievement Journey For Every Child

Embibe is the world's first edtech company that truly delivers learning and life outcomes. It has put the tech in teaching - leveraging AI and state of the art pedagogical frameworks to help every child experience true personalization. Over the last nine years, the founder, Ms. Aditi Avasthi's commitment to open access has given Embibe unprecedented data to understand what truly works.

The platform delivers personalized achievement journeys for every learner in their mother tongue at a price-point accessible to all. Embibe is living by its motto of - "Every Child Will Achieve".



**Embibe** is a movement to deliver learning and life outcomes to students. It also empowers teachers to be their best.



# Using Data Analytics for Effective Decision Making

Ayushi Mishra, Chief Operations Officer, DronaMaps leverages traditional geospatial techniques, integrating them with data coming from Management Information Systems, drone maps, mobile applications, WhatsApp chatbots and more. In the end, a layer of intelligent AI/ML analytics is built to enable the usage of select data points for effective decision making.

The system relies on creating data interoperability in siloed data sets, thereby, creating long term savings on cost.



**DronaMaps** democratises access to mapping and supports accurate decision making using refined analytics.

**Ayushi Mishra**  
DronaMaps Pvt. Ltd.  
Indore, Madhya Pradesh

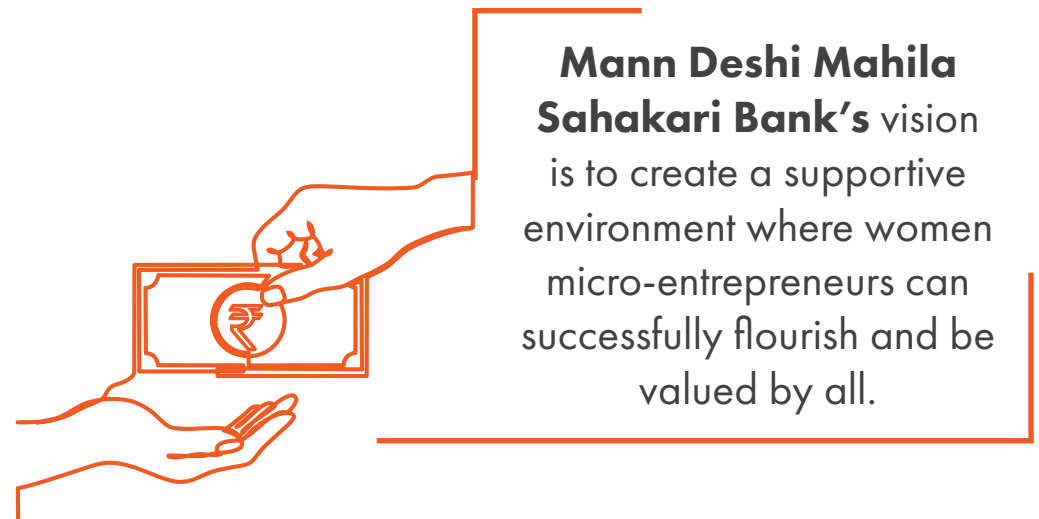


**Chetna Gala Sinha**  
Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Bank  
Mumbai, Maharashtra

## Building a Pathway to Self-Sufficiency and Financial Security

Chetna is a social activist associated with the Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Bank. Her contribution has been instrumental in setting up the first women pension fund in partnership with the Unit Trust of India for rural women micro-entrepreneurs in India.

The bank has also set up the first cash credit product for rural women in weekly markets. They aim to reach one million women by 2024 by nurturing an ecosystem within which they can thrive.



**Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Bank's** vision is to create a supportive environment where women micro-entrepreneurs can successfully flourish and be valued by all.


# Increasing Productivity and Profits through Customized Irrigation Solutions for Farmers

Dr Swapna Priya K is the Chief Operating Officer of an Agri tech company Farms2fork Technologies. She aims to build a low cost irrigation advisory model leveraging on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning combining on-ground sensors, satellite and weather data to detect low soil moisture and alert the farmers at a very low cost.

Their mission is to help Paddy, Sugarcane, Cotton, Grape, Pomegranate and Banana growing farmers to increase profit by upto 30% and save water by 50% with their customized irrigation solution powered by AI and Internet of Things (IoT).



**Dr. Swapna Priya K**  
Farms2fork Technologies Pvt. Ltd.  
Bangalore, Karnataka



**Farms2fork** is using artificial intelligence and machine learning to increase farm productivity.

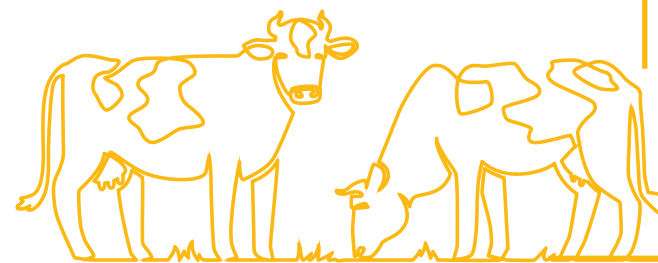




**Neetu Yadav**  
Animall Technologies Ltd.  
Gurgaon, Haryana

## Building a One Stop Shop for Dairy Farmers

Co-founder of Animall Technologies Ltd., Neetu Yadav, ensures that her platform primarily focuses on building a peer-to-peer cattle trading platform. Their journey has been very encouraging and promising - they have reached more than 8 million dairy farmers within a short span of 2 years. In the next 5 years, Animall aims to create digital solutions in financing, insurance, healthcare and all dairy farming needs of India's dairy farmers.



**Animall's** mission is to build efficiencies in the dairy ecosystem in India using technology, data science, and design.

# Transitioning India to Create a Type 2 Diabetes Free World

Under the leadership of Swati Pandey, Arboreal Bioinnovations are proud to be recognized for their groundbreaking efforts in transitioning India to the Post Sugar World. Their team is driven by the vision of creating a Type-2 diabetes-free world in their lifetime. Arboreal combines advanced scientific R&D with traceable, scalable and sustainable supply chain of Stevia to deliver great-tasting applications that are loved and desired by calorie-conscious consumers.

Their core team comprises of professionals with over 200 years of collective experience in Phytochemicals and Natural Extracts.



**Arboreal** combines advanced scientific R&D with traceable, scalable and sustainable supply chain.

## Swati Pandey

Arboreal Bioinnovations Pvt. Ltd.  
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh







**Malini Parmar**  
Rekke Personal Care Pvt. Ltd.  
(Stonesoup.in)  
Bengaluru, Karnataka

## For Trash Free, Rash Free and Shame Free Periods

Malini Parmar, Ex-IT professional considers herself an accidental activist turned social entrepreneur. Stonesoup is a sustainable menstrual hygiene product company that also promotes other sustainable living products.

Collectively Stonesoup has diverted more than 12 million disposable sanitary pads from landfill and created 100+ evangelists (Saathis) and 250+ producers pan India. Impacting positively women's health, environment and creating employment for women.



**Stonesoup** wants municipalities to have zero sanitary waste and women to experience happy periods.



# Using Age Old Ayurveda Knowledge to Create Niche World Class Products


Hailing from the Ayurvedic hub in India, Mira Kulkarni used her knowledge and experience to establish Forest Essentials. She was introduced to Ayurveda early in life and worked with Vaidis (Ayurveda specialists) for many years to learn formulations before launching the brand in 2000.

Her knowledge of natural ingredients and time-tested formulas with her passion for creating high-quality Indian products that keep the inherent properties of Ayurveda ingredients intact, led to the success of the brand.



**Mira Kulkarni**

Forest Essentials  
Delhi



**Forest Essentials** is the quintessential Indian Beauty Brand that uses age-old wisdom and extensive research to make premium products available to its customers.



**Preeti Rao**  
Weljii  
Delhi

## Facilitating Lifestyle Behavioural Changes through Healthy Coaching with a Wellness Lens

Preeti Rao's focus at Weljii is to provide evidenced based Health and Wellness Coaching Services and Education that foster prevention and management of lifestyle diseases from a 360 degree perspective for organizations, individuals and professionals.

Her organization Weljii, offers programs on weight-loss, fitness, sleep, smoking cessation, alcohol de-addiction, stress, anxiety, diabetes, heart health, and much more! They also offer Certification and Training Programmes, giving a chance to aspiring professionals to become certified Health & Wellness Coaches.



**Weljii** inspires, motivates, facilitates people to live a life of optimum health and wellbeing.

# Crafting an Inclusive World for Artisans as Co-owners, Co-creators and Co-travellers

Sumita Ghose is the Founder and MD of Rangсутra, a community owned social enterprise with over 2000+ artisans as shareholders. The goal is to ensure sustainable livelihoods for rural artisans, 80% of whom are women. Their artisans are also co-owners, co-creators, managers and board members.

They believe that traditional handicrafts and textiles can be a source of regular livelihood and value creation for rural artisans.



**Rangсутra** is a bridge between artisans and customers, between rural and urban and between change and continuity.

**Sumita Ghose**  
Rangсутra Crafts India  
Bikaner, Rajasthan





**Trishla Surana**  
Colour Me Mad Pvt. Ltd.  
Mumbai, Maharashtra

## Towards a Pain Free Life where Interventions Focus on Your Feet

Trishla, Managing Director of Your Foot Doctor addresses the really important issue of mobility and pain free life for the mass population who suffer due to Flat Feet and other foot related pain. It is a start-up that cares for your feet and is focused on providing foot care solutions using innovation, technology and human touch.

It has benefited thousands of customers by delivering pain relief footwear and insoles, both off the shelf and customized as per their foot condition.

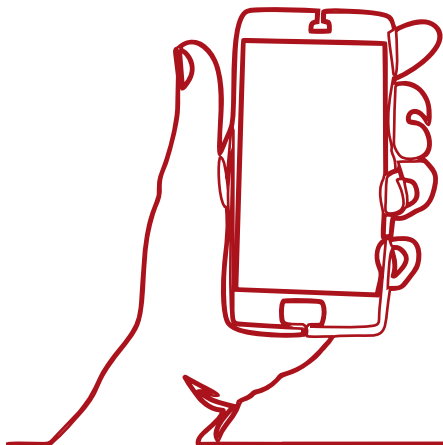


Foot is the foundation of our body and **Colour Me Mad** firmly believes that wearing the right support and foot care is the key to mobility and good health!

# Revolutionizing Access to Instant and Secure Data

Hasura is an open source product that accelerates data access, by providing GraphQL or REST APIs with built in authorization on your data, instantly., Rajoshi is the co-founder of Hasura, which is the first open-source unicorn startup in India, and she is also the first woman founder of a unicorn startup in India.

Hasura is one of the fastest growing open source projects in this space and has been downloaded over 450 million times by developers globally. Hasura enables developers to get an API to access data instantly so that they can build mission critical applications rapidly.



**Hasura** is on a mission to make data access fast, secure & scalable. Envisioning a world where developers are enabled to build applications at the speed of thought.

**Rajoshi Ghosh**

Hasura  
Bangalore, Karnataka

# Giving A Life of Purpose to the Specially Abled by Building their Functional Abilities



**Sugandha Sukrutaraj**  
AMBA  
Bangalore, Karnataka

Ashoka Fellow, Sugandha Sukrutaraj founded a social enterprise, AMBA. It focuses on changing paradigms/mindsets about adults with Moderate/Severe Intellectual Disabilities, while discovering infinite functional possibilities. They are building an ecosystem to build, operate and sustain training and employment within 475 ACPCs (AMBA Certified Partner Centres).

They are working towards building an ecosystem of learning and earning for these individuals using Information Technology, giving them the dignity and independence that they deserve.



**AMBA** works to maximize potential of community of adults with moderate to severe intellectual disability across India by economically empowering them.



# Fostering an Ecosystem for Persons with Special Abilities to Lead a Dignified Life

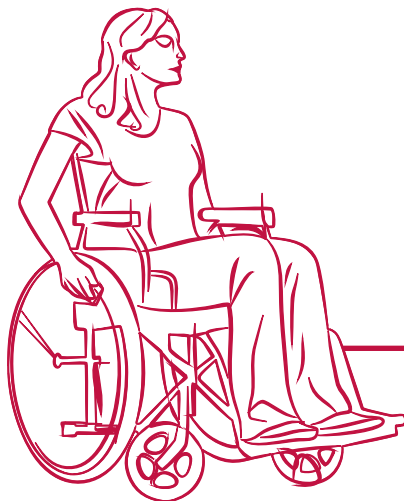
EnAble India (EI) a non-profit organization started by Shanti Raghavan. They are working on the ground for the last 2 decades and impacting thousands of persons with disability (PwDs). Their vision is a world where persons with disability are tax payers, active citizens and nation builders.

EI is on a mission to build a sustainable Livelihood Ecosystem for millions of PwDs to attain a dignified life while having a positive impact on the economy and society. This will lead to a paradigm shift where PwDs are leading to a shift in the consciousness of the society.



**Shanti Raghavan**

EnAble India  
Mumbai, Maharashtra



**EnAble India** is ambitious for the cause of economic independence and dignity for persons with disability.



**Suchi Mukherjee**  
LimeRoad  
Gurgaon, Haryana

## Digitising Fashion Products by Driving Excellence in Manufacturing

Suchi Mukherjee has built a unique platform, LimeRoad with best in class fundamentals. They aim to create access to digital fashion for everyone. So far, LimeRoad has served over 16 million customers.

This is a team of survivors who have focused on driving excellence; it is the only team from the 2010-2014 cohort of fashion commerce companies, who cumulatively raised over 10,000 crores.



**LimeRoad** wants to digitize fashion worth Rs. 400,000 crores, enabling next 100 million users through creation of an unparalleled ecosystem.







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**SEEMA GUPTA**  
Advisor



**SUKRITI JAIN**  
Manager



**PALLAVI DUGGAL**  
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**SHILPI JAIN**  
Lead - Corporate Communication



**SAPNA SUBBA**  
Assistant Manager



**ARADHANA MATHUR**  
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## EVALUATION TEAM @ GRANT THORNTON



**VIKAS GAMBHIR**  
Executive Director



**SUDHI JAIN**  
Associate Director



**CHIRAG SINGLA**  
Assistant Manager



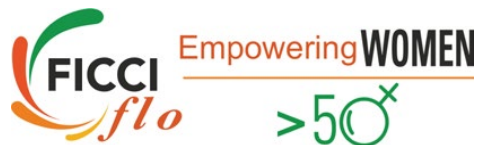
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