

Meet the **TED** INDIA **2009** Fellows

Dear TEDizens,

In the following pages you'll find 103 remarkable individuals from South Asia and the rest of the world. They make up our first TEDIndia class of TED Fellows.

Among them, you will find:

The first Indian woman to finish on the podium in an International Olympic Class Regatta / A racecar designer / The founder of the first nationwide emergency response system in India / A biological and cultural anthropologist studying indigenous healing rituals in Ghana / An American-born sitar player / The founder of Teach for America's Indian counterpart / A recent high school grad and appropriate technology engineer / A professor specializing in primate behavioral ecology

Please read the Fellows' profiles and introduce yourself, both during and after the conference. We are thrilled to present the TEDIndia Fellows!

Tom Rielly
Community Director
tom@ted.com



TED Fellows

Launched at TED2009 in Long Beach, the new TED Fellows program brings outstanding individuals who have shown unusual accomplishment, exceptional courage and moral imagination into the TED community and, with its help, amplifies the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.

TEDIndia

For TED's first conference in Asia, we're running a unique TED Fellows program, with international representation and a distinctly South Asian majority. We have selected 103 remarkable individuals to join us in Mysore, replicating our successful TEDAfrica 2007 program.

In addition to attending as full members of the TEDIndia conference audience, all TED Fellows will take part in a one-day pre-conference where, among other benefits, they will receive world-class communication training and collaborate with their peers. Select Fellows will be invited to speak on the TED Fellows, TED University and main TED stages. Their TEDTalks may be selected for posting on TED.com, where each has the potential to be viewed hundreds of thousands of times. Fellows will also participate in the TED community throughout the next year, by telling their ongoing stories on the TED Fellows blog, being featured in the online Fellows directory and participating in a private social network.

TED and TEDGlobal

The TEDIndia Fellows program is a part of the larger TED Fellows program. The remainder of the program is comprised of the 25 Fellows selected to attend the TED Conference in Long Beach, California and TEDGlobal Conference in Oxford. These Fellows similarly enjoy a variety of benefits on top of conference participation and a Fellows-centered pre-conference.

The Fellows program, in general, focuses on people from five target regions: Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Middle East, though people from the rest of the world are also represented and welcome to apply. Fellows are drawn from the many disciplines that reflect the diversity of TED's members: technology, entertainment, design, the sciences, the humanities, the arts, NGOs, business and more. Though we are targeting innovators age 21-40, anyone 18 to 20 and over 40 is welcome to apply.

TED Senior Fellows

Of the Fellows selected each year, 20 individuals will be invited to participate in the extended Senior Fellowship program starting the following year. In addition to receiving the benefits awarded to the Fellows, TED Senior Fellows will receive all-expenses-paid admission to five additional conferences over the course of three years, including participation in five Senior Fellows-centered pre-conferences, the potential to deliver a longer talk on the TED U or main stage, and the potential to have their TEDTalk posted online.

How you can get involved

If you are a TEDster, you can help the TED Fellows in six ways:

1. [mentoring a Fellow](#) / 2. [teaching at a TED Fellows event](#) / 3. [nominating an excellent candidate](#)
4. [donating to support the program*](#) / 5. [corporate underwriting](#) / 6. [contributing in-kind goods and services](#)

To learn more about TED Fellows or to participate, visit www.ted.com/fellows and contact fellows@ted.com, or call Logan McClure at the TED office in New York at +1 212 346 9333.

TED Thanks



We would like to thank Sherpalo Ventures India for underwriting the TEDIndia Fellows program.

The Bezos Family*

**THE HARNISCH
FOUNDATION**

THE CASE FOUNDATION

John and Ann Doerr

Pam Alexander

Scott Wolf

NOKIA
Connecting People

google.org

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Reuben Abraham, David Albertson, Pragnya Alekal, Pam Alexander, Harvey Armstrong, Sushmita Bandopadhyay, Jackie Bezos, Mike Bezos, Amy Blitzer, Erich Broksas, Majora Carter, Jean Case, Steve Case, Faisal Chohan, Ann Doerr, John Doerr, Nancy Duarte, Meghan Duff, Pablo Halkyard, Bill Harnisch, Ruth Ann Harnisch, Allison Hunt, Billy Johnson, V.K. Madhavan, Tommy McCall, Chipso Mugomba, Sandeep Murthy, Emeka Okafor, Lakshmi Pratury, Jennifer Raymond, Jay Roop, Amanda Scarberry, Yatin Sethi, Mohammad Tauheed, Ram Shriram, Megan Smith, Meryl Stone, Scott Wolf, Megan Wyatt and Diana Yousef

Finally, we would like to thank the TED2009 and TEDGlobal 2009 Fellows. Not only have they been remarkable inaugural classes, but they have provided invaluable feedback that continues to shape the program today. To learn more about the current Fellows, please visit www.ted.com/fellows.

* The Bezos family has offered a matching grant for donations of \$50,000 and above received before September 30, 2010. For more information, or to participate in the matching grant, please contact Logan at logan@ted.com.

TED INDIA Fellows

Mysore, India 2009

This map shows the Fellows located **around the world**.



TARGETED REGIONS

The TEDIndia Fellows program has international representation with a distinctly South Asian majority. Select fellows representing the program's five target regions—Africa, Asia/Pacific, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Middle East—join the South Asian Fellows from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.



Anab Jain
U.K./INDIA



Andy Okoroafor
FRANCE



Amruta Patil
FRANCE



Awab Alvi
PAKISTAN



Asher Hasan
PAKISTAN/U.S.



Shandana Minhas
PAKISTAN



Aun Rahman
PAKISTAN



Shahida Saleem
PAKISTAN



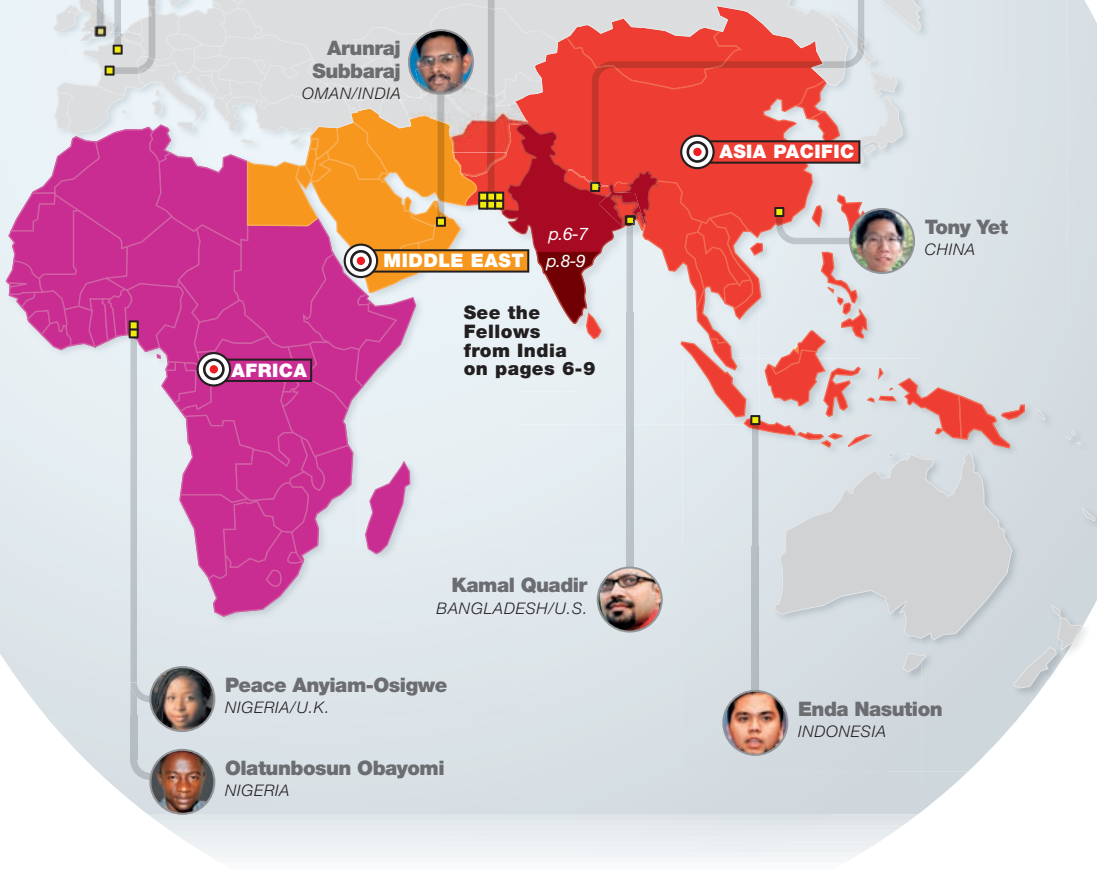
Santosh Sigdel
NEPAL



Arunraj Subbaraj
OMAN/INDIA



Tony Yet
CHINA



MIDDLE EAST

ASIA PACIFIC

AFRICA

See the
Fellows
from India
on pages 6-9

p.6-7
p.8-9

Kamal Quadir
BANGLADESH/U.S.



Peace Anyiam-Osigwe
NIGERIA/U.K.



Olatunbosun Obayomi
NIGERIA

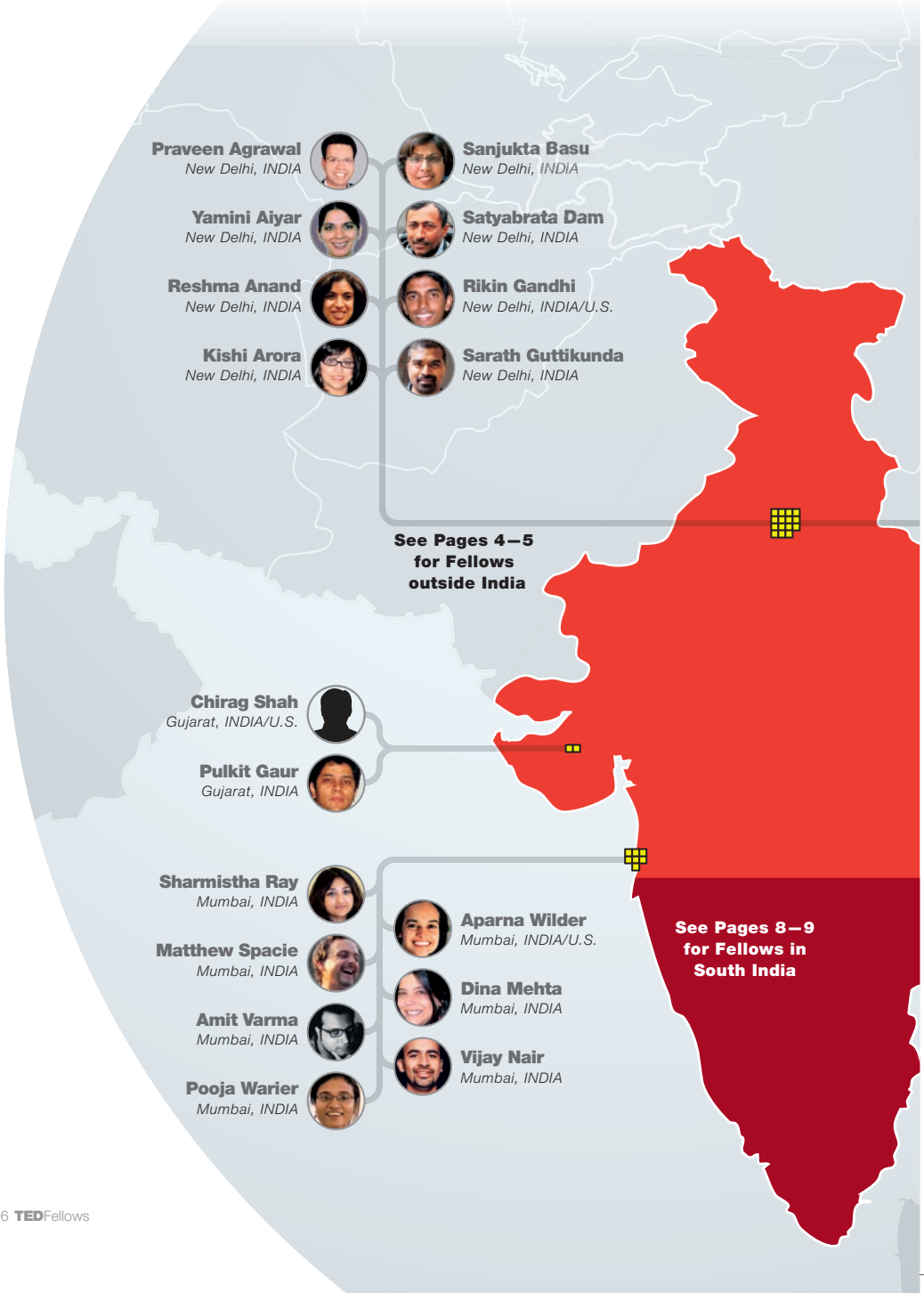


Enda Nasution
INDONESIA

TED INDIA Fellows

Mysore, India 2009

This map shows the Fellows located in Northern India.



Lisa Heydlauff
New Delhi, INDIA



Rahul Nainwal
New Delhi, INDIA

Srinivas Kiran Jaggu
New Delhi, INDIA



Puneet Rakheja
New Delhi, INDIA

Shiva Keshavan
New Delhi, INDIA.



Kartick Satyanarayan
New Delhi, INDIA/U.S.

Gaurav Mishra
New Delhi, INDIA



Kamesh Salam
Assam, INDIA



Irfan Alam
Bihar, INDIA



Gyanesh Pandey
Bihar, INDIA

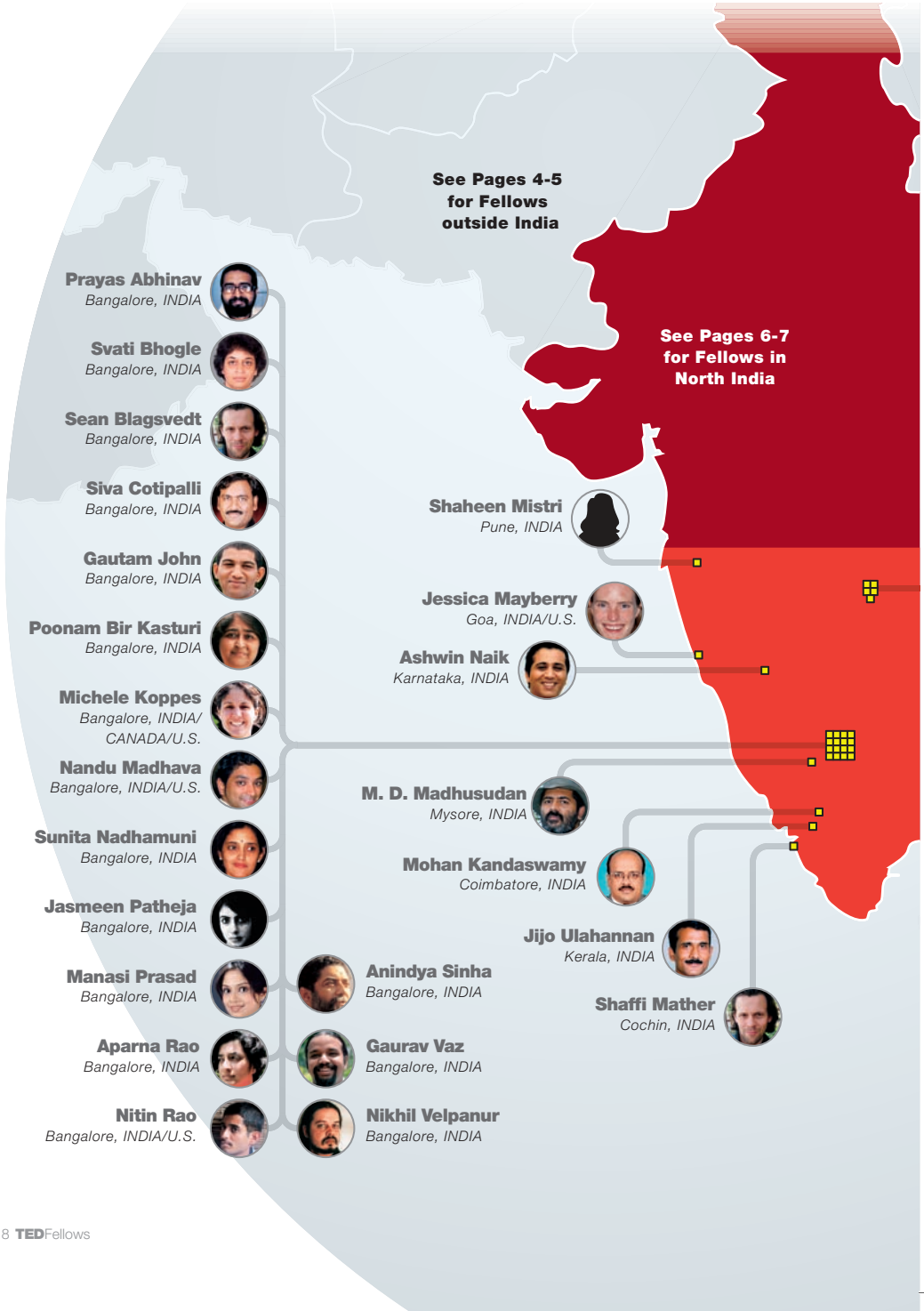


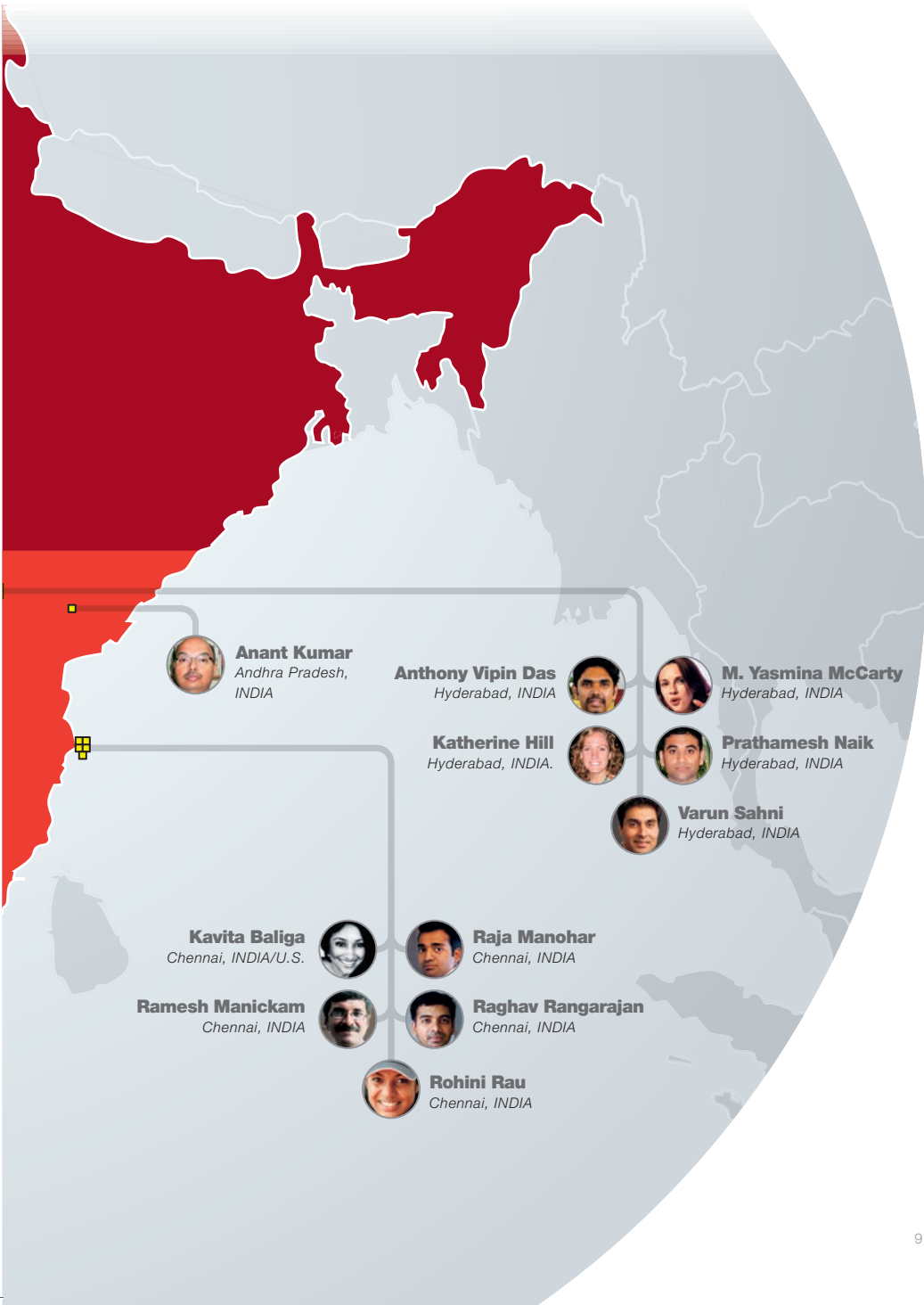
Apurv Mishra
Orissa, INDIA

TED INDIA Fellows

Mysore, India 2009

This map shows the Fellows located in Southern India.





Anant Kumar
Andhra Pradesh,
INDIA

Anthony Vipin Das
Hyderabad, INDIA



M. Yasmina McCarty
Hyderabad, INDIA

Katherine Hill
Hyderabad, INDIA.



Prathamesh Naik
Hyderabad, INDIA



Varun Sahni
Hyderabad, INDIA

Kavita Baliga
Chennai, INDIA/U.S.



Raja Manohar
Chennai, INDIA

Ramesh Manickam
Chennai, INDIA



Raghav Rangarajan
Chennai, INDIA



Rohini Rau
Chennai, INDIA

Prayas Abhinav

Artist @ CitySpinning



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Personal Website

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A Co-Working and Collaborative Project

www.protost.ation.in

Biography

Prayas lives in Bangalore, India. Through his work he explores how outdoor spaces in cities can be utilized for cultural and civic uses. Employing social networks and technology to connect communities and resources is often one of his approaches. In 2007, he helped launch the Creative Commons India licenses. His research is identifying non-coercive business models that do not depend on intellectual property policies for their efficiency. He has been supported by fellowships with Openspace India, Sarai and IIACD. His fiction and poetry has been published in magazines and newspapers. An essay, "Even War Has Limits," won a prize from the International Committee of the Red Cross and took him to Kosovo in 2000. He has taught workshops at the Dutch Art Institute and Center for Environmental Planning and Technology. Recently, he has presented his work at Futuresonic, 48c: Public Art Ecology, Khoj, Urban Typhoon and Sensory Urbanism.

Praveen Agrawal

CTO + Co-Founder @ LeadInvent Technologies



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The Place Where It All Started

www.scfbio-iitd.res.in

Biography

Praveen is an alumnus of IIT Delhi's Integrated Master of Technology program in Mathematics and Computing with specialization in Computational Biology. He did his master project under the guidance of Professor B. Jayaram and worked on ChemGenome Genome Analysis. The underlying mathematical model of ChemGenome is the outcome of his master thesis work. He joined the Supercomputing Facility for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology at IIT Delhi, where his responsibilities were creating algorithms and programs for minimization and Monte Carlo simulations of bio-molecules. He has international publications in genome analysis and protein structure prediction. He previously worked in Adobe's Digital Video group in Noida, in the Sun Centre of Excellence in Calgary and in the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Mumbai. He is currently the CTO of LeadInvent Technologies.

Yamini Aiyar

Development Professional @ Accountability Initiative



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Centre for Policy Research

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Biography

Yamini is currently Director of the Accountability Initiative. Set up in 2008, the Accountability Initiative aims to promote research, innovations and tools to strengthen accountability and citizen engagement in India's governance processes. Prior to setting up the initiative, Yamini worked with international development organizations on issues related to improving accountability in basic service delivery. She has worked with the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program and Rural Development unit in New Delhi on action research aimed at strengthening mechanisms for citizen engagement in local government. She was a member of the decentralization team at the World Bank that provided policy support to strengthen local governance in India. Yamini has also worked on issues related to decentralization and service delivery at the Ford Foundation with its Governance and Civil Society program.

Irfan Alam

Social Entrepreneur @ Sammaan Foundation



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www.hottteststartups.in/viewandvote.do?method=fetch&businessfn=viewandvote&startupid=635

India Brand Equity Foundation

www.ibef.org/artdisplay.aspx?cat_id=60&art_id=21705

SammaaN Foundation

www.sammaan.org

Biography

Irfan was born in the Begusarai district of Bihar, India in 1980. Since his high school days, Irfan has enjoyed market trading and analysis. This keen interest made him pursue economics and foreign trade in baccalaureate and graduate studies. During his post-graduation days, Irfan got an opportunity to participate in a television reality show featuring young entrepreneurs. With his novel idea of organizing the cycle rickshaw-operating sector in India by converting it into a profitable social venture, he won the competition. From education to accessing medical facilities, from regular banking to life coverage and credit cards, Irfan hopes all that is enjoyed by mainstream society can be available for his rickshaw operators too. In only two years, Irfan built a family of over 100,000 rickshaw operators with outreach in nine states of India. He has been recognized by the World Bank, *The Economist*, AIF, FWWB, USIBC and various state governments for his work.

Awab Alvi

Dentist + Orthodontist @ Alvi Dental Hospital / Online Activist



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Biography

Awab studied dentistry at Lahore Medical and Dental College in Pakistan and earned a MSc in Orthodontics from Saint Louis University, in the US. He went on to specialize in the field of Microscopic Endodontics from the University of Pennsylvania. He now maintains a full-time private dental practice in Karachi, Pakistan at the Alvi Dental Hospital. Awab is the author of "Teeth Maestro," a prominent blog that features an independent perspective on the political situation in Pakistan. Awab started his online activism in 2005, collecting over \$10,000 in one-dollar donations for the victims of the earthquake in Pakistan. He co-founded the Don't Block the Blog campaign, which protested web censorship by the Government of Pakistan. Currently, Awab is engaged in political activism with a civil society group called People's Resistance.

Tahir Amin

Director of Intellectual Property @ Initiative for Medicines, Access and Knowledge



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Biography

Tahir is a practicing solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales. He trained and practiced with two of the leading IP firms in the UK and also served as an in-house global IP manager for a multinational company. Tahir has over 10 years' experience in prosecuting, licensing, opposing and litigating trademarks, patents and designs. Prior to founding I-MAK, he spent two years in India researching public-interest IP issues and working on pharmaceutical patent oppositions. Tahir advises the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative, the World Health Organization, Oxfam and various other NGOs on intellectual property and its impact on access to affordable medicines. He is a Fellow at the Harvard Medical School in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine and a 2008 Echoing Green Fellow.

Reshma Anand

Founder + CEO @ Earthy Goods



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Biography

Reshma Anand left mainstream corporate life after a road trip through remote parts of rural India. As she traveled, she met entrepreneurs and artisans with the potential to make quality products and create local employment, but who faced challenges in accessing markets and meeting their standards. She set up her venture Earthy Goods in 2007 to bridge this gap. An end-to-end solution provider for micro enterprises, her team works hands-on with small agricultural producers and local artisans to support them through the value chain, including marketing in terrains ranging from the cold deserts of Ladakh, the fruit belts of Himachal, the forests of the Northeast to the lush farms of the South. An Economics graduate from Delhi University and an MBA from IIM Bangalore, Reshma started her career with Hindustan Unilever Limited. She also worked with India's leading social entrepreneur to set up a network of Internet-enabled tele-centers in villages.

Peace Anyiam-Osigwe

COO @ Africa Movie Academy Awards / Filmmaker / Writer / TV Host



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Anyiam-Osigwe Foundation

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Biography

Peace is a writer, film producer and a presenter of her own talk show, "A Piece Off My Mind." She conceived, planned, financed and hosted the annual AMAA Awards, the primary film awards in Africa today, and set up the Africa Film Academy in 2005. Her film credits include *Fear of the Unknown*, *Sons of Thunder*, *Last Son* and *Laviva*. These films have been shown at international film festivals, including the Berlin Film Festival and the Durban International Film Festival. Peace holds the position of Director of Media and Publicity for the Anyiam-Osigwe Foundation. She is also a former Vice President of the Association of Movie Producers in Nigeria, and has been a member of the short film jury of the Berlinale festival, the Nigerian delegation to the African Film Summit and the Cultural Entrepreneur Workshop in Kenya. This year, she set up Africadopt, creating awareness of adoption as a need in Africa due to the large number of orphans on the continent.

Kishi Arora

Pastry Chef + Food Consultant @ Foodaholics



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Foodaholics

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Biography

A pastry chef by profession, Kishi spends her day dreaming up ways to tickle, surprise and indulge the taste buds of discerning foodies in Delhi. Kishi, your cakesmith, as she likes to be called, has conjured up a range of premium cakes, desserts and puddings in an assortment of exotic flavors. From Shri Ram College of Commerce in India to the Culinary Institute of America, changing geographies changed her career from crunching numbers to whipping up desserts. She specializes in baking and pastry. For Kishi, it's always been about the creation of sumptuous, unique and visually expressive desserts that taste just as fabulous. Foodaholics gives Kishi a sense of pride and satisfaction in what she does. The lingering taste and experience of the goodies at Foodaholics is more than a labor of love – it's her way to spread good cheer and happiness all year round.

Zubaida Bai

Student @ Colorado State University, Global Social and Sustainable Enterprise Program
 Founder + CEO @ AYZH



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Global Social and Sustainable Enterprise Program

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Biography

Zubaida holds a Master's in Mechanical Engineering from Dalarna University, Borlange, Sweden. After three years of contributing her engineering skills to product development in India, she is currently pursuing a Master's of Science in Business Administration specializing in Global Social and Sustainable Enterprise at Colorado State University. In fall 2008, Zubaida combined her technical background and business education with her passion for giving women the tools to rise out of poverty, when she founded AYZH, a social enterprise providing livelihood-enhancing technologies to rural women. AYZH, based in India, has the support of GSSE and the Rural Technology Business Incubator at the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras. Zubaida is committed to the pursuit of academic research and applied fieldwork in order to understand the issues being faced by women in developing countries, and to establish a methodology for her enterprise that can effectively address those needs.

Kavita Baliga

Vocal Teacher @ Choir Conductor + Recording Artist, KM Music Conservatory



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Websites**Personal Website**

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Biography

Kavita, an accomplished musician and recording artist, began her musical career at the early age of five when she began taking Western classical piano. For the next 14 years she continued to study piano, Hindustani voice, and Western classical voice. Her honors and awards include winning first place in the Satya Devi Memorial Trust competition and first place in the Youth Focus Competition of California. She received her Bachelor's of Music degree from the University of California at Irvine and earned her Master's of Music degree from The Boston Conservatory in vocal performance. She is skilled in operatic coloratura repertoire, and has performed in recitals and concerts around the US, Switzerland, Italy and India. Kavita is currently a faculty member of AR Rahman's music conservatory in Chennai, India where she works as a vocal teacher, choral conductor and recording artist.

Sanjukta Basu

Lawyer / Blogger / Social Media + Communications Evangelist



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Sanjukta's Photography

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Biography

Sanjukta is a fiercely independent woman who lives her life on her own terms, breaking every unfair societal construct based on gender and sexuality. A Delhi University law graduate, she has the rich experience of working in multiple sectors and industries such as public, private, judiciary and nonprofit. She is a prolific writer, photographer, activist and a new media and communication enthusiast. She uses her writing as her tool for activism. She mostly writes on topics such as women, gender, sexuality, culture, media and representation. But most importantly she writes about herself baring her heart and soul, saying the things we all feel but are too afraid to express. The strength of her soul reflects in her writing, which inspires others to live a life strong and free from inhibitions. She owes her self-discovery to blogging and thus evangelizes for others to do the same. Her mission in life is to travel the world collecting hugs and smiles.

Bristol Baughan

Independent Film Director + Producer + Consultant



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GOOD

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Biography

Bristol is an award-winning film producer and freelance film consultant. She produced the film *Racing Dreams*, by Oscar-nominated director Marshall Curry and won the Jury Prize for Best Documentary at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2009. She executive produced *By the People: The Election of Barack Obama* alongside Edward Norton, and also the documentary *Which Way Home* about child immigrants. Her first documentary, *The Power of the Game*, was directed by Michael Apter and acquired by National Geographic. Her first fiction film, *Son of Rambow*, was distributed by Paramount Vantage. She co-founded Good, a multi-media company that produces content and provides a platform for people who give a damn, in 2004. She spearheaded Good's online video content in August 2006, directing and producing the company's first short documentary films. Bristol is spending 2009/2010 traveling around the world.

Svati Bhogle

Chief Executive @ TIDE



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Biography

Svati is Chief Executive of TIDE, a nonprofit devoted to promoting sustainable development through technological interventions. She has implemented over 100 projects on biomass energy and the environment. Her work covers different aspects of the innovation process, from idea-generation and technology development to participatory rural processes for acceptance of innovation. She accepted the Ashden International Energy Champion Award in 2008 on behalf of TIDE. In 2009 she and others in TIDE started Sustaintech India as a social enterprise aimed at rapid replicability of innovative, energy-efficient wood stoves for street-food vendors. She is managing a team that is working in association with the Tea Board of India for introducing energy use reform in the tea industry. She is Editor of *E-Net*, an energy-networking magazine in South Asia. She is a member of Energia, the international network on gender and energy. She is an alumnus of IIT Bombay and lives in Bangalore.

Sanjit Biswas

CEO, Co-Founder @ Meraki



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Meraki

www.meraki.com

Biography

As co-founder and current CEO of Meraki, Sanjit is responsible for Meraki's strategic direction and day-to-day operations. Meraki offers enterprise-class wireless networks at a fraction of the cost and complexity of traditional networking vendors through the use of an award-winning, cloud-based technology. Sanjit is currently on leave from the PhD program at MIT, where he co-led a research project that won several academic awards and later became the foundation of Meraki's wireless mesh technology. Sanjit holds a BS in Computer Systems Engineering from Stanford, and an SM in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from MIT.

Biography source: http://meraki.com/about/executive_team/

Sean Blagsvedt

CEO @ Babajob.com

Founding Member of NASSCOM Sub-Committee on Technologies for the Base of the Pyramid



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Personal Blog

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Biography

Sean is the CEO of Babajob.com, which connects employers to informal sector employees – such as maids, cooks and office helpers – in the developing world through mobile phones, using location, skill, price-filtering and social connections. The site has added over 80,000 users and 250,000 job positions, launched with three large mobile carriers in India and has been profiled by the *New York Times* as a significant innovation that “seeks to bring the social-networking revolution to the world’s poor.” Previously, Sean spent nine years with Microsoft in the Office, Windows and Research groups. In 2004, Sean moved to Bangalore as the third member of Microsoft Research India, heading the Program Management and Advanced Prototyping team, focusing on novel approaches to mobile phones and technology in emerging markets. Prior to Microsoft, Sean worked at the White House with the Internet policy czar, Ira Magaziner. Sean is also a founding member of the NASSCOM Sub-Committee for Technology for the Base of the Pyramid.

Jane Chen

CEO @ Embrace



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Websites**Embrace**

www.embraceglobal.org

Biography

Jane is the co-founder and CEO of Embrace, a social enterprise that aims to help the millions of vulnerable babies born every year in developing countries through a low-cost infant warmer. Unlike traditional incubators that cost up to \$20,000, the Embrace infant warmer costs less than 1% of this price. The device requires no electricity, has no moving parts, is portable and is safe and intuitive to use. Jane co-founded Embrace with Linus Liang, Naganand Murty, Rahul Panicker and Razmig Hovaghimian while pursuing her MBA at Stanford Graduate School of Business. The product was conceived by this team in a course called “Design for Extreme Affordability.” Jane also received her Master’s in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Prior to her graduate studies, Jane was Program Director of Chi Heng Foundation, a nonprofit organization that sponsors the education of children affected by AIDS in central China. She was also formerly a management consultant at Monitor Group.

Leila Chirayath Janah

Founder + CEO @ Samasource / Part-Time Boxing Instructor



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Samasource

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Social Edge Blog

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Biography

Leila is the founder of Samasource, an award-winning social business that enables marginalized people, from refugees in Kenya to women in rural Pakistan, to receive life-changing work opportunities via the Internet. Prior to Samasource, she was a founding Director of Incentives for Global Health, an NGO based at Yale University working on new financing mechanisms for pharmaceutical research on diseases of the poor. Earlier in her career, Leila advised leading telecom and healthcare companies as a management consultant at Katzenbach Partners, and led independent research for the World Bank's Development Research Group and Ashoka India. She has been invited to serve as a Social Enterprise Institute Fellow, a Visiting Scholar with the Stanford Program on Global Justice, and a Visiting Researcher at Australian National University's Center for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics. She resides in San Francisco.

Tanzeem Choudhury

Assistant Professor in Computer Science @ Dartmouth College



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Biography

Tanzeem is an Assistant Professor in the Computer Science department at Dartmouth. She joined Dartmouth in 2008 after four years at Intel Research Seattle. She received her PhD from the Media Lab at MIT. Her research involves developing machine-learning techniques for systems that can reason about human activities, interactions and social networks in everyday environments. Tanzeem's doctoral thesis demonstrated, for the first time, the feasibility of using wearable sensors to capture and model social networks automatically, on the basis of face-to-face conversations. She was recognized in *MIT Technology Review's* 2008 TR35 list for her work in this area and is a recipient of the NSF CAREER award and is a World Technology Network 2009 Fellow.

Siva Cotipalli

CEO @ DhanaX Information Services



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Biography

Siva is the co-founder and CEO of DhanaX, an India-based social lending network for the poor. After graduating from BITS-Pilani and IIM-Kozhikode and working for five years, Siva wanted to build a business that would benefit millions of poor Indians, and thus came up with the idea of DhanaX. He strongly believes that doing well and doing good need not be conflicting objectives. In a country like India, with wide, unequal distribution of wealth, Siva has built a unique platform for the “haves” of India to help “have-nots” without getting involved in charities. DhanaX is a social lending site that matches lenders with investable savings and low-income borrowers who have no access to formal credit. Siva, one of the 30 Youth Icons identified by Pepsi and MTV in India for 2008, has won several laurels at international and national forums. He has been regular feature in national and international media for his thoughts on Indian social entrepreneurship.

Satyabrata Dam

Indian Naval Officer + Commander @ Indian Navy, Ministry of Defense



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www.satyabratadam.blogspot.com

Biography

Satya is a globetrotting mountaineer and adventurer. He has climbed the highest peaks of all the seven continents and he is the first person in the world to have led successful expeditions to Mount Everest and the North and South Poles. He is an internationally published author of crime fiction and has also written a coffee table book on Mount Everest. He has climbed in almost all the major mountain ranges in the world. He has been climbing in the Himalaya since the age of 10 and travels around the globe giving lectures on the Himalayan Ranges. His mountaineering articles and photographs are regularly published in some of the world's leading professional mountaineering journals. He is also an ardent ice caver and cross-country skier. He has skied across the Greenland ice cap. His other interests include skydiving, water skiing, criminology, music and traveling.

Anthony Vipin Das

Ophthalmologist @ eyeDAS (eMedReport) / Functional Analyst



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Websites**REPOrT**

www.youtube.com/reportproject

Eye Digital Analysis System

www.eye-das.com

My Music Channel

www.youtube.com/antonvipin

Biography

Anthony, fondly called Doc by his team, has recently finished his post-graduation specialization in Ophthalmology from Kakatiya Medical College, Warangal, India with a Gold Medal. He is currently pursuing a clinical observership at the prestigious Duke Eye Center in Durham, North Carolina, US in the Department of Oculoplasty and Facial Surgery. He is passionate about rural community service, with specific interest in prevention of eye injuries among children in rural areas. He is the founder of REPOrT: Rural Education and Prevention of Ocular Trauma. The project, which started in 2008, has catered to more than 20,000 children since then and is ongoing. He is also the architect and Functional Analyst of eyeDAS – Eye Digital Analysis System – a premier Online EMR for Ophthalmology.

Francis de los Reyes III

Associate Professor @ North Carolina State University
Coordinator @ Gawad Kalinga in Triangle, North Carolina



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www.ce.ncsu.edu/faculty/delosreyes/index.phtml

Research

www4.ncsu.edu/~fdelosr/

Biography

Francis is an environmental engineer, an Associate Professor at NC State University, a teacher and researcher, and a coordinator for a nonprofit organization helping to lift developing countries out of poverty. His research and teaching focuses on wastewater treatment, engineering and microbiology of contaminant removal from solid and liquid wastes, and water and sanitation for developing countries. Francis obtained a BS in Agricultural Engineering from the University of the Philippines-Los Banos, a MS in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University, and a PhD in Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois. He has received international awards for research, including the NSF CAREER Award in 2001. He has worked with municipalities and research institutions in the US, China, and the Philippines as consultant and visiting scientist. As the NC Triangle Area Coordinator of Gawad Kalinga, a nonprofit movement with the aim of transforming slums in developing countries to colorful villages, he has coordinated efforts to establish three villages in the Philippines, helping to rebuild the lives of 90 families.

Deepti Doshi

India Country Representative @ Escuela Nueva Foundation



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Websites

Education Access for All

www.eaaindia.wordpress.com

Biography

Deepti is engaged in a number of education projects in India with a primary focus on supporting the development of low-cost private schools. Currently, she is working as the India Country Representative of the Escuela Nueva Foundation to bring its innovative educational methodologies, developed in Colombia, to low-cost schools in India. Deepti is also part of the startup team of a social enterprise focused on creating a chain of high quality private schools in small towns across India. Previously, Deepti was Talent Manager at Acumen Fund, a nonprofit global venture fund, where she designed and managed the Acumen Fund Fellows Program as well as recruiting and the professional development of its staff. Deepti has also worked as a management consultant and was part of the start team of a global leadership development firm. She has also helped build a vocational training institute at an orphanage in India that serves victims of the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat.

Rikin Gandhi

CEO @ Digital Green / Researcher @ Microsoft Research India



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www.digitalgreen.org

Digital Green Blog

www.sites.digitalgreen.org/inside-digital-green

LinkedIn

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Biography

Rikin is CEO of Digital Green and a researcher in the Technology for Emerging Markets team at Microsoft Research India. His interests include sustainable agriculture and technology for socioeconomic development. Gandhi received a Master's in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from MIT and a Bachelor's in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University. Prior to his days in rural India, Gandhi was a software engineer at Oracle and a pilot with ambitions for joining the astronaut program. Born and raised in the US, Gandhi reverse-migrated to India to help start a biodiesel venture on the wastelands of Maharashtra. Gandhi is in the process of resigning from his position at Microsoft to transition into a full-time leadership role at Digital Green. He looks forward to seeing organizations use the Digital Green system to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers across the developing world.

Pulkit Gaur

CTO + Founder @ Gridbots Technologies



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Websites**Gridbots**

www.gridbots.com

Picporta

www.picporta.com

Personal Blog

www.pulkit.gridbots.com

Biography

Pulkit is 28-year-old industrial engineer coming from a small city, Jodhpur, in Rajasthan, India. He is passionate about robotics, machine vision and artificial intelligence. Pulkit started his career in 2004 and worked for two years in the industry. He later moved on to start his own venture, and conceptualized Gridbots, which focused on the development of technologies that can make machines more intelligent and user-friendly. Currently Gridbots is based in Ahmedabad, India, and incubated by IIM Ahmedabad's business incubator. Pulkit is a researcher by hobby and profession both, and his research focus is development of adaptive engines to understand images automatically without any manual intervention. In his free time he loves to make robots and watch sci-fi movies. His company Gridbots is India's first consumer robotics company and also the first company to launch industrial underwater robots.

Neha Gupta

Student @ University of Maryland / Research Assistant / Entrepreneur



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www.saltwithpepper.blogspot.com

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Biography

Neha is computer scientist, humanitarian, entrepreneur and dancer. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Computer Science at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is one of the founders of EachOne-TeachOne, a website for online volunteer education using social networking sites, and is working towards its commercial deployment. Through EachOne-TeachOne, students in any part of the world will be able connect with teachers anywhere and fulfill their educational requirements. Her research group has also created a new emergency alert system called V911, which is a new paradigm in the traditional 911 services. Through V911 services, with the click of a button a live audio/video stream will start from the user's handheld camera phone to the police officer's console, giving live feed of the distress situation. For her PhD, she is also looking into context-aware computing and ways to make machines smarter so that the machines can automatically customize themselves for different people in different circumstances and different locations.

Sarath Guttikunda

Independent Researcher @ UrbanEmissions.info

Affiliate Asst. Professor @ Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Inst., Reno, US



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Urban Emissions Blog

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Environment in Motion

www.ecoentertainment.blogspot.com

Biography

Sarath founded UrbanEmissions.info as a repository of information and research related to air pollution. His focus of research is integrated management of air pollution in developing countries, which directly stems from his doctoral research at the University of Iowa. His experience in academia as well as policy made him realize the importance of basic analysis and numbers to design successful air quality programs. He developed the SIM-air family of modeling tools that bridges the gap between academic research and implementation at the city level. Before returning to India in 2007, he worked with the World Bank for five years as an air quality and climate change specialist. Sarath studied chemical engineering during his undergraduate studies at IIT and is currently an affiliate assistant professor with the division of atmospheric sciences, at Desert Research Institute, Reno, US.

Asher Hasan

Founder + CEO @ Naya Jeevan



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Naya Jeevan
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Biography

Asher is the founder and CEO of Naya Jeevan, a multinational social enterprise dedicated to providing low-income families throughout the emerging world with affordable access to quality, catastrophic health-care. Asher was recently selected as a Draper Richards Social Entrepreneur Fellow for 2009-2011 that is accompanied with a \$300,000 award, and is also an invited member of the Clinton Global Initiative for 2009-2010. In addition, Asher and Naya Jeevan are also the recipients of a \$75,000 first prize in the 2008 NYU Social Entrepreneurship Business Plan competition. Prior to launching Naya Jeevan, Asher served in the capacity of Senior Director and Head of the US Medical Affairs Obesity team for Amylin Pharmaceuticals, San Diego, CA. He splits his time between Los Angeles, CA and Karachi, Pakistan.

Lisa Heydlauff

Director + Founder @ Going to School



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Going to School
www.goingtoschool.com

Biography

Lisa is the director and founder of Going to School, a creative nonprofit trust that makes magical movies, books and radio for children to make education relevant to children's lives and, most importantly, lots of fun. Lisa believes inspiring stories can change the way children see their lives. She grew up in England, Canada and the US, and now calls India home. Going to School was inspired by Oliver, age seven, who asked Lisa, his teacher, "What is it like to go to school in India?" Lisa promised that if she ever got the chance, she would find out. Lisa's journey began with the children's book *Going to School in India*, a celebration of what school can be. GTS continued with *Girl Stars*, a series of 15 extraordinary tales of ordinary girls seen by over 750 million people; and now, *Be!*, a mass media project to inspire millions of young people to choose to become entrepreneurs in India and to create businesses that solve the problems they face in their lives.

Katherine Hill

India Portfolio Manager, Energy @ Acumen Fund



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Websites**Personal Photography**

www.flickr.com/photos/39331449@n05/sets/72157619601336736

The Next Billion Blog

www.nextbillion.net/blog/2009/06/18/the-working-capital-gap-in-india

Biography

As the youngest Portfolio Manager at Acumen Fund, Katie leads the Energy Portfolio in India. She directly supports existing investments worth \$3.3 million in the sectors of micro-drip irrigation, solar lighting and hydropower for rural electrification. Katie is developing an expertise in the delivery of clean energy to the poor, hoping to address the tensions and opportunities that lie between the global shift towards clean energy and the glaring energy deficit among the world's poor. A graduate of Stanford University, Katie's background is in economic development and microfinance, having previously worked in Uganda, Nepal and Ecuador. Katie has a passion for linguistics. In her two and a half years in India, she has taught herself to write and speak Hindi. Since retiring from women's rugby, Katie has finished amongst the top 10 women runners in the Mumbai and the Hyderabad half-marathons.

John Adam Huggins

Independent Documentary Photographer + Journalist



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Feature for *The New York Times*

www.adamhuggins.net/nycsewerinfo.htm

List of Published Work

www.lightstalkers.org/users/cites/12371

Biography

Adam is an award-winning documentary photographer who uses his camera as a medium to tell stories that aim to get people involved in the issues that affect us all. In 2002, Adam moved from Canada to India, where he lived and worked until 2006, when he was invited for a one-year residency at FABRICA in Italy. At the end of 2006, he returned to the Indian subcontinent, where he covered assignments for *The New York Times*. Adam authored the body of work titled “New York Manhole Covers, Forged Barefoot in India,” which drew attention to the extremely hazardous working conditions under which manhole covers for New York and other municipalities throughout the United States are produced in India. The piece called for state legislation and prompted Con Edison, one of the private utilities companies that purchase these items, to rewrite its international contracts to include safety requirements. So far, Adam’s work has taken him into over 20 countries across five continents, and he currently resides in New Delhi.

Srinivas Kiran Jaggu

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Stanford India Biodesign

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Biography

Srini is currently an Innovation Fellow at Stanford-India Biodesign. His desire is to develop innovative medical device solutions for developing world. He is currently developing a novel way to treat emergency patients who need vascular access. His other areas of interest include developing affordable medical device solutions in the areas of critical care and diagnostic imaging. As a lead system designer, Srini developed diagnostic products for the Indian healthcare market with GE Healthcare. He has worked on system control and platform software for GE's X-ray products. He has made significant contributions to GE's invasive cardiology, diagnostic X-ray and surgical care products. Srini received his Electrical Engineering degree from Bangalore University College.

Anab Jain

Designer + Founder @ Superflux / Filmmaker / Storyteller



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Superflux Ltd

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The Power of 8

www.powerof8.org.uk

Biography

Anab is a designer with a passion for creating opportunities and building tools that can lead us towards new and desirable futures. Educated in India, Vienna and London, she is the Founder of Superflux, a new “think-and-do” design company working at the intersection of people and technology. Recently she created the “Power of 8” project, which brings together scientists, urbanists, educators and permaculturists to imagine optimistic futures. With a relentless curiosity for communities, she has spent time co-creating banking systems for earthquake victims, designing games with street children who sold their blood for a living, producing the award winning film *Journeys* about commuting tribulations in Mumbai and offering her personal WiFi to neighbors and passersby. Recent work provoking possibilities around emerging technologies includes designing energy-autonomous machines made of sugar and new RFID landscapes.

Gautam John

New Projects Manager @ Pratham Books / Akshara Foundation



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www.blog.prathambooks.org

Pratham Artwork and Photographs

www.flickr.com/photos/prathambooks

Some of My Organization's CC Licensed Books

www.scribd.com/prathambooks

Biography

Gautam is a lawyer by training, has been an entrepreneur and a corporate lackey, and now works with two nonprofits, Akshara Foundation and Pratham Books. At Akshara, he manages extensive data input and management processes and works with technology to engage communities around the issue of educational outcomes in government schools. At Pratham Books, he works on bringing technology and openly licensed content together to ensure a book in every child's hand. Gautam's passions include technology, food and the open access philosophy as applied to multiple spheres – data, education, culture and governance.

Mohan Kandaswamy

Director @ Oriental Aquamarine Biotech India / Independent Consultant



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Biography

Mohan is the founder of Oriental Aquamarine Biotech India, a startup company in the biotech space. The company is working on commercializing the Nitrifying Bioreactor technology developed at India's National Centre for Aquatic Animal Health, in Cochin. The Nitrifying Bioreactor helps in establishment of bio-secure recirculation aquaculture systems in hatcheries, and has multiple applications. This will substantially minimize the water quality problems being faced by any establishment involved in the rearing and maintenance of aquatic species. The Closed Recirculating Aquaculture System, fitted with the Nitrifying Bioreactor, actively controls water quality and helps maintain reef quality oligotrophic conditions for optimum growth and development of various aquatic species. The Nitrifying Bioreactor is the first of its kind in the industry worldwide. Outside his professional work, he is an avid swimmer and aquatic enthusiast.

Shalini Kantayya

Director @ 7th Empire Media



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www.shalinikantayya.net

A Drop of Life

www.adropoflife.tv

Biography

Combining biting social commentary with a dash of commercial appeal, filmmaker, eco-activist and educator Shalini aims to make social change irresistible. Shalini finished in the top 10 of over 12,000 filmmakers in *On the Lot*, a Steven Spielberg show on Fox television in search of Hollywood's next great director. The mission of her production company, 7th Empire Media, is to create a culture of human rights and a sustainable planet through wildly imaginative media of the highest professional quality. Her award-winning film, *Drop of Life*, a futuristic sci-fi flick about the mounting global water crisis, has been used as an organizing tool in over 40 villages across Africa. A Fulbright Scholar, Shalini is engaging the kinetic energy of youth through screening events on college campuses across the United States. Shalini is currently a Food and Policy Fellow at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and is developing a slate of feature films.

Siddharth Kara

Independent Anti-Slavery Researcher + Activist
Human Trafficking Fellow @ Harvard University



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Websites

“Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery”
www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=48594163073&ref=ts

Biography

Siddharth is the author of *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, which provides a rare business and economic analysis of the global sex trafficking industry. Drawing on his background in finance, an MBA from Columbia University, and a law degree from the UK, Kara sets forth a detailed analysis of the rise of contemporary slavery, including specific recommendations on how to abolish the crimes once and for all. Kara first encountered the horrors of sexual slavery in a Bosnian refugee camp in 1995 and has since taken multiple research trips to fourteen countries (most extensively in India and Nepal) where he has interviewed hundreds of slaves, as well as confronted the criminals who exploited them. Kara consults for several organizations on slavery, including the Clinton Global Initiative and Humanity United, and he has testified as an expert on slavery before the US Congressional Human Rights Committee. He serves on the board of directors of Free the Slaves, and he is currently the first Human Trafficking Fellow at Harvard University.

Poonam Bir Kasturi

Designer / Mentor + Teacher @ Playn'Speak



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Websites**Daily Dump**

www.dailydump.org

Playn' Speak

www.playnspeak.net

Biography

Poonam trained as an industrial designer. She has worked in small-scale industry, craft design and production, and design education. She consults and teaches while experimenting with different models of design interventions. She co-founded a craft promotion and marketing company and also was on the founding team that set up a design school in the south of India. She has designed a home composter for the Indian market that is available through an open-source platform, and already there are seven different businesses that have sprouted in different locations in India that use this knowledge. Her passion is to demonstrate simple alternative practices in the cycle of production and consumption.

Shiva Keshavan

Athlete + Entrepreneur @ LINK Overseas Consulting



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LINK

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India Winter Sports

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Biography

Shiva is India's three-time Winter Olympian and the youngest athlete in the history of sport to qualify for the Olympics in the high-speed sledging sport of luge. He is also the only Indian to bring back medals from the International Games, and is currently the Asian Bronze medalist. At 28 years of age, he will be representing India at the Olympics for the fourth time in February 2010. He propounds the need to lead a healthy lifestyle, governed by sporting principles of fair play, determination and integrity. He was elected and continues to be Worldwide Ambassador of the World Anti-Doping Association. He brings back to India his expertise and desire to give back to the community what he has earned over the years by championing the development of winter sports in India. He has initiated the National Luge Training and Talent Scout Program, which will benefit a large number of children from rural backgrounds.

Mia Kirshner

Director @ I Live Here / Actor



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I Live Here

www.i-live-here.com

I Live Here Projects/Facebook

www.apps.facebook.com/causes/107683?m=6d54c0aa&recruiter_id=13195235

Operation USA/I Live Here's fiscal sponsor

www.opusa.org

Biography

Nine years ago, Mia began gathering material for a book called *I Live Here*, a four-volume anthology about displaced women and children all over the world and how we are connected to one another. The book's co-collaborators are Mike Simons, Paul Shoebridge and JB MacKinnon. Based on what she saw over the years, she has now set up The I Live Here Projects. The first program is set in a juvenile prison in Malawi, addressing basic human rights not being met and building self-esteem through creative writing and art. The next project will be situated on the Thai-Burmese border in a brothel, attempting to make it a more humane place for the women who work there. Additionally, with a team of fearless volunteers, she has co-created an I Live Here Ambassador Program, which has student-run groups working with the issues of *I Live Here* over the course of the year. Mia is also an actress, having worked on Showtime's *The L Word* and Brian Diploma's *Black Dahlia*.

Michele Koppes

Assistant Professor @ University of British Columbia



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Biography

Michele is a glaciologist and geomorphologist with specific expertise in landscape evolution and change, and glacier dynamics and glacier change as they reflect climate change. Michele is currently working on a better understanding of the role of contemporary glacier change on global water resources and regional transportation networks, and is in India to set up a long-term monitoring station for the glaciers that feed the headwaters of the Indus and Ganga. She is also working on quantifying the impact of humans as agents of geomorphic change. Outside of her scientific research, she is passionate about the communication of knowledge and policy needs between the scientific community, the public and policymakers, and the challenges to pursuing interdisciplinary research agendas in traditional academic institutions.

Anant Kumar

CEO @ LifeSpring Hospitals



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LifeSpring
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Biography

Anant launched the first LifeSpring Hospital in December 2005. Given the success of the pilot model of low-cost, high-quality hospitals for low-income women, LifeSpring Hospitals launched as a separate private company with equity participation from HLL Lifecare and Acumen Fund in February 2008. Within one year, the LifeSpring Hospitals network has grown to become the largest private maternity hospital network in India and aspires to become one of the largest in the world. Low-income women want and deserve safe, affordable maternal care, and by leading LifeSpring Hospitals, Anant has put dignity at the center of this endeavor. Anant has a post-graduate diploma in Rural Management from the Institute of Rural Management, Anand, and a post-graduate diploma in Health Care and Hospital Management from Symbiosis Institute.

Nandu Madhava

Social Entrepreneur @ mDhil



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www.mdhil.com

About mDhil

www.slideshare.net/nandu01

YouTube User Account

www.youtube.com/user/nandu01

Biography

Nandu is the CEO and Founder of mDhil, a social impact startup that provides basic health information over mobile phones in India. Since launching in March 2009, mDhil has reached over 120,000 paid users and is currently expanding services in preventative care, diabetes and reproductive health information. Previously, he was part of the management team at OfficeTiger, a Chennai-based business process outsourcing firm acquired by RR Donnelley. Nandu was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic, where he worked on technology development issues and assisted foreign doctors with medical clinics in local communities. Nandu later worked at Goldman Sachs and UBS in asset management roles where he was part of a three-member team that managed over one billion dollars in diversified assets. He is an undergraduate of the University of Texas and received his MBA from Harvard Business School.

M. D. Madhusudan

Conservation Scientist @ Nature Conservation Foundation



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www.conservation.in

Biography

Madhu is a conservation scientist. Rather than in a cold, tube-lit, windowless laboratory, he works at the edge of natural and human-dominated spaces – along the fringes of forests, watching what animals do when they leave the jungle and what humans do when they enter it. He believes understanding these two things is the key to both ensuring a safe future for wildlife and protecting people's lives and livelihoods. What animals do in human habitation affects local economies, livelihoods and lifestyles. What people do in forests is also driven by social, economic and cultural considerations. Madhu has been at this for more than 15 years. Along the way, he co-founded one of India's youngest but most-respected wildlife research and conservation organizations, the Nature Conservation Foundation. He continues to learn, teach and generally boss around at NCF. When he isn't doing any of those, he is reading technology blogs.

Ramesh Manickam

Founder + Design Director @ Centroid Creative Hubb / Entrepreneur



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Design Centric

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Biography

Ramesh is the founder and CEO of Centroid Creative Hubb, an industrial design firm based in Chennai that pushes boundaries in industrial design work in India. Ramesh, as an industrial designer, has styled products ranging from tractors, wheel loaders and motorcycles to water heaters and baby-warmers. In the past 10 years he has worked on more than 80 creative design solutions. Ramesh represented India as a national finalist as International Young Design Entrepreneur of the Year in 2006, an award conducted by the British Council to nurture design entrepreneurship. He is also an alumnus of IIT Delhi's Industrial Design program. His passion from childhood is drawing. A self-taught artist, he studied civil engineering and aligned his career with industrial design. Before starting Centroid, he was with Royal Enfield as an automotive designer, and designed the legendary Thunderbird Motorcycle.

Raja Manohar

Managing Director @ Hexolabs Media and Technology



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Hexolabs

www.hexolabs.com

Biography

Raja is an entrepreneur, educator, design thinker and practitioner. He heads Hexolabs, a mobile technology company with a prime focus on innovating multilingual, speech-based solutions for the mobile VAS market in India. His passion to bridge the digital divide, to reach out to rural masses, gave him a vision to develop grounded solutions around mobile telephony and services. With the increasing penetration of mobile services, especially in multilingual rural India, He strongly believes that voice-based mobile technology holds the key to the future of education, health care, governance and entertainment. Currently, he is working on a social micromanagement project that aims to empower citizens, make administration more participatory, ensure greater transparency, and deter the arbitrary exercise of official power. He is on the guest faculty in the design program at IIT Kanpur where he organizes courses and workshops on social media innovation and human-computer interaction.

Shaffi Mather

Social Entrepreneur @ Ambulance Access for All / Education Access for All / Moksha Yug Access / Lawyer



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Rural Supply Chain Infrastructure

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Mangal Newton School

www.mangalnewton.com

Biography

Shaffi is a serial social entrepreneur, having promoted three social enterprises since 2003. He is the founder of Ambulance Access for All, Education Access for All, and co-promoter of Moksha Yug Access. Shaffi is also a practicing lawyer (mainly in the Supreme Court of India) focusing on litigation in public interest matters, especially battling for transparency in governance and use of public funds, human rights, civil rights and primacy of constitution. Shaffi was educated at the Mahatma Gandhi University, India, the University of Pittsburgh, US, the University of Bridgeport, US and the London School of Economics, UK, where he was a Chevening Senior Scholar and is currently a visiting lecturer. He was also a Mason Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, graduating with a Master in Public Administration degree. After his MBA, Shaffi took his family business in real estate to a leadership position in his state. He is part of an upcoming new generation of young leaders within Indian National Congress Party.

Jessica Mayberry

Founding Director @ Video Volunteers



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Channel 19

www.ch19.org

Biography

Jessica founded Video Volunteers in 2003, after spending a year training rural Indian women in film-making as a Fellow of the American India Foundation. Prior to that, Jessica worked in television in New York at Court TV, the Fox News Channel, and CNN. Under her direction Video Volunteers has won numerous awards, including an Echoing Green Fellowship, the Stern Business School Business Plan competition, the Knight Foundation's News Challenge, a Tech Award and a Development Gateway Award Shortlist. Jessica has spoken about her work in numerous settings, including Stanford Business School, the NYU and Berkeley Journalism Schools, and Oxford and Canterbury Universities in the UK. She serves on the board of Free the Children, the world's largest organization of "Children Helping Children," and on the Advisory Council of Counterpart International. She received her BA in Modern History and Modern Languages from Oxford University in 1999.

M. Yasmina McCarty

Entrepreneur @ GreenMango



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Websites

GreenMango

www.greenmango.co.in

Biography

Yasmina is the co-founder and CEO of GreenMango, a virtual marketplace in India that connects small businesses in the informal economy (carpenters, tailors, plumbers) with their customers. Since beginning operations in 2008, GreenMango now serves more than 30,000 small businesses in Hyderabad and Bangalore, with the vision to grow throughout India and into other emerging markets. Before GreenMango, Yasmina spent nearly five years at Women's World Banking and ACCION, where she designed programs to apply traditional marketing practices to the microfinance sector. Working with microfinance organizations in India, Pakistan, Kenya, Colombia, Brazil, Jordan, Mexico and Bosnia and Herzegovina, she designed marketing strategies, conducted customer research, gave industry presentations, ran trainings and authored a best practice publication.

Dina Mehta

Ethnographer + Qualitative Researcher / Social Media Observer @ Mosoci



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Websites**Personal Blog**

www.dinamehta.com

Mosoci

www.mosoci.com

Twitter

www.twitter.com/dina

Biography

Dina is a qualitative researcher and ethnographer with over 20 years of experience, based in Mumbai, India. She established Explore Research and Consultancy in 1998, and co-founded her global company research consultancy Mosoci in 2007. She is involved in ethnographic studies, studying the impact of technology in rural markets, following trend-setting youth in urban settings, and exploring the future of mobile and social computing. An early blogger and social media observer, she has contributed to building several communities on the Internet, such as World-changing, Tsunami Help, KatrinaHelp, SkypeJournal and Global Voices Online. Dina is an advisor and friend of Global Voices Online and is a sub-board member of the Information Program at the Open Society Institute. She runs workshops and consults with organizations in framing research and strategy for a mobile and Web 2.0 world.

Andrew Mendelson

Filmmaker / Film + TV Editor + Musician @ Ragamala Productions



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Websites

Ragamala Productions

www.ragamalaproductions.com

Biography

Andrew is a filmmaker, musician and editor hailing from New York City. His latest production, a documentary film entitled *A Cricket in the Court of Akbar*, chronicles his journey to India to compete in the largest music competition in the state of Rajasthan. Andrew has been working in television production for over 10 years, and has edited shows for national broadcast on PBS, Comedy Central, Bravo, E! and many others. Andrew also produced and edited *Nerdcore Rising*, a documentary film about the rise of nerd rappers, which premiered to sold-out houses at the SXSW Film Festival in March, 2008. Currently Andrew is editing the revival of the acclaimed children's series *The Electric Company* for PBS. Andrew is a devout student of Indian classical music and has been playing the sitar for over 12 years. He has played at venues throughout New York City, and has helped create the score for various TV and film projects. He is a disciple of renowned sitarist Pandit Krishna Mohan Bhatt.

Shandana Minhas

Writer



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Websites**Tunnel Vision**

www.facebook.com/pages/shandana-minhas-tunnel-vision/112586444017

Archive of Work

www.thenews.com.pk/editorial_arc1.asp?wn=shandana%20minhas

Biography

Shandana writes for print and screen. Her novel *Tunnel Vision* was published in 2007 and shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book. She is currently working on her second. A novella, *Rafina*, is being adapted into a feature film. Pakistani publications she has written for include *The Friday Times* and *Newsline*, and her column "Don't Shoot the Messenger" currently appears in *The News* on Sunday. She has also been contributing to Chowk.com since 1998. Her screenwriting credits include three short films as well as several documentaries about the effects of unregulated development on the environment.

Apurv Mishra

Founder + Executive Director @ Innovator Factor Foundation



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www.apurv mishra.com

Innovator Factor Foundation

www.iffglobal.org

Open Scientific Network Beta

www.openscientific.net

Biography

Apurv founded Innovator Factor Foundation in 2006 as spin-off from Intel's initiatives in Indianapolis, and developed OpenScientificNetwork, a scientific, social collaboration system, which is under implementation at universities like MIT, Harvard and Yale. One of his inventions, "Glabenator," earned him the President of India's National Technology Award in 2006 for the best technological innovation for the physically challenged. He has won several international awards including the ISEF Grand Award, the AVASC International Award, the CSIR Invention Award, Infosys' Young Achiever's Award, and recently the SIYSS Award to attend the Nobel Prize Ceremony in 2009 at Stockholm. He consults several NGOs such as the Kachile Foundation in Ivory Coast, HealthNovations in Boston and Ecamp in Israel.

Gaurav Mishra

CEO @ 20:20 Social / Co-Founder @ Vote Report India



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Websites**Personal Website**

www.gauravonomics.com

Vote Report India

www.votereport.in

20:20 Social

www.2020social.com

Biography

Gaurav is the CEO of social media research and strategy firm 20:20 Social. Previously, Gaurav has held senior marketing roles at the Tata Group, taught social media at Georgetown University as the 2008-09 Yahoo! Fellow, and co-founded the citizen-powered election-monitoring platform Vote Report India. Gaurav is frequently quoted in Indian and international media on topics related to social media, digital activism and citizen journalism and is a regular speaker at conferences. Gaurav has contributed chapters to two books on social media and is writing chapters for two forthcoming books on digital activism and government 2.0. Gaurav writes a popular blog on social media and social change at Gauravonomics Blog, which is amongst the 150 most popular marketing and PR blogs internationally, according to the AdAge Power 150 rankings.

Shaheen Mistri

CEO @ Teach for India



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Websites

Teach for India

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Akanksha Foundation

www.akanksha.org

Biography

Shaheen is the founder of the Akanksha Foundation, a nonprofit organization with a mission to impact the lives of less privileged children, enabling them to maximize their potential and change their lives. Akanksha works primarily in the field of education, addressing non-formal education through the Akanksha center model, and also formal education by initiating school reform. Over the past 19 years, the organization has expanded from 15 children in one centre to over 3,500 children across Mumbai and Pune. Shaheen has been an Ashoka Fellow, a Global Leader for Tomorrow at the World Economic Forum, and an Asia Society 21 Leader. He serves on the boards of Ummeed and the Thermax Social Initiatives Foundation. He is an advisor to the Latika Roy Foundation. Shaheen has been working on the idea of Teach For India since 2007, and serves as its founding CEO and one of its founding board members.

Biography source: <http://www.teachforindia.org/team.html/>

Sunita Nadhamuni

CEO @ Arghyam



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Websites**Arghyam**

www.arghyam.org

India Water Portal

www.indiawaterportal.org

Hindi Water Portal

www.hindi.indiawaterportal.org

Biography

Sunita gave up her Silicon Valley computer professional career (and an established way of life) at a relatively young age to follow her dream of working in the development sector. Since 2005, she has been the CEO of Arghyam, a charitable Indian foundation with a mission to promote safe, sustainable water for all. As the CEO, she has helped shaped Arghyam into a unique funding organization in the water sector that's been appreciated for exploring innovative and effective ways to bring about social change. Arghyam works through a combination of project grants to grassroots organizations, knowledge building and sharing through the India Water Portal, promoting new models of water science, technology, community engagement and participatory action research, and advocacy.

Sandhya Naidu Janardhan

Architect @ Architecture for Humanity



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Websites**Interview with AIArchitect**

www.info.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek09/0417/0417p_challenge.cfm

Open Architecture Network

www.openarchitecturenetwork.org/competitions/challenge/2009

Architecture for Humanity

www.architectureforhumanity.org

Biography

Sandhya was trained as an architect at RV School of Architecture, Bangalore, India. During her undergraduate studies Sandhya developed an interest in the role of architecture in shaping the urban fabric. Her design approach focused on architecture as a tool for social and cultural change. Having completed her undergraduate studies, she worked for a year for InForm Architects in Bangalore. Sandhya continued her architectural studies, getting her masters from Columbia University in 2008. Her graduate studies included design studios based in cities in China and Morocco. Sandhya then moved to San Francisco to work for Architecture for Humanity as a Design Fellow. She has been involved with the Open Architecture Challenge: Classroom of the Future. She is a part of the team in creating this movement focusing on the importance of well-designed spaces for learning.

Prathamesh Naik

Director @ Indian School Finance Company



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Websites**Indian School Finance Company**

www.isfc.in

LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com/pub/prathamesh-naik/2/7a2/243

Biography

Pratham is the Marketing Director of the Indian School Finance Company. The ISFC has financed 87 low-income private schools and impacted over 65,000 students. The ISFC has recently been named as one of “10 new ideas that could change the world” by Intellectap, India’s leading consulting firm for social for-profit companies. Previously, Pratham was one of the Founders of The Spark Group, an education vertical supported by IFMR Trust, the social enterprise arm of ICICI Bank. He returned to India from the UAE in 2007, where he held roles as Country Manager at Supermax and Section Manager at Transmed. Pratham holds a BCom from the University of Mumbai and an MBA from Cardiff University. The MIT Sloan School of Business has allowed him to defer admission so that he can pursue his goal of alleviating poverty through a for-profit education model.

Ashwin Naik

Entrepreneur @ Vaatsalya Healthcare



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Websites

Vaatsalya Healthcare
www.vaatsalya.com

Personal Blog

www.ashwinnaik.com

Biography

Ashwin is the founder of Vaatsalya, a pioneering venture in India building the country's first network of hospitals in semi-urban and rural areas. Vaatsalya has been honored nationally and internationally for its innovative business model, and was most recently the winner of the Sankalp Award 2009 for Social Entrepreneurship (for healthcare inclusion). Vaatsalya currently provides direct healthcare services to more than 100,000 families in the southern state of Karnataka. A medical graduate by training, Ashwin has more than 10 years experience in the life sciences and healthcare industry. Prior to returning to India, he was involved in the Human Genome Project at Celera Genomics. He has also contributed a book chapter on the "Origin of Life," which is based on this graduate thesis work.

Rahul Nainwal

Co-Founder + Director @ iVolunteer (MITRA Technology Foundation)



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Websites

iVolunteer

www.ivolunteer.in

The 7 Day Giving Challenge

www.7days7gifts.ning.com

Biography

Rahul is a social entrepreneur who co-founded iVolunteer, an organization that is working to promote volunteering in India. Rahul is an engineer and an MBA from IRMA. Before co-founding iVolunteer he has previously worked in the corporate sector. In 2004 Rahul was awarded an Ashoka Fellowship for one year for his work at iVolunteer. His latest venture aims to bring a culture of gifting in India that he wants to promote through a variety of initiatives such as the 7 Days Gifting challenge. When not busy working, Rahul likes to take his Royal Enfield Motorcycle up in the Himalayas. He has taken his motorbike right up to Khardungla Pass in Ladakh, world's highest motorable road. Rahul is also a VSO volunteer and has volunteered in Sierra Leone.

Vijay Nair

Entrepreneur @ Only Much Louder



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Websites**Only Much Louder**

www.oml.in

Babble Fish Productions

www.babblefish.in

Biography

Vijay embarked on his music career at 17 when he decided to drop out to manage rock bands with a vague plan of wanting to do “something” in the “indie” space. What started as a hobby soon became a fully-fledged career as he founded Only Much Louder, the first artist management company for indie bands in India in 2002. Fueled by a strong DIY ethic, OML launched Counter Culture Records, who started their own distribution for emerging artists. Babblefish Productions was started in 2008 as the video production arm of OML to help give indie artists a visual identity by developing music videos, documentaries and podcasts. OML Digital is the latest venture based out of Bangalore, and focuses on creating direct-to-fan platforms for indie musicians in India. Vijay just won the prestigious British Council International Young Music Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2009, making him the first Indian to achieve this feat.

Enda Nasution

Founder + Operation Director @ Politikana.com / Blogger



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Websites**Politikana**

www.politikana.com

Personal Blog

www.enda.goblogmedia.com

Biography

Blogging since 2001, Enda has just recently launched the first Indonesian Web 2.0 political site, Politikana.com. Dubbed by Indonesian media as the “Father of Indonesian Bloggers” he organized and was the first Chairman of Indonesia’s blogger summit, Pesta Blogger, in 2007. The annual Indonesian blogger gathering is in its third year now, and he stayed and consults as one of the steering committee. He now appears and speaks in seminars and conferences about blogs, social media and digital landscapes. He lives in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Olatunbosun Obayomi

Biotechnologist @ Bio Applications Initiative



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Websites

Bio Applications Initiative

www.bioapplications.blogspot.com

Biography

Olatunbosun was born in Nigeria. He is the principal consultant and biotechnologist of Bio Applications Initiative. He invents and formulates strategies for using nature's basic principles for solving human problems. He is presently working on the production of a green alternative energy from organic wastes such as human feces, paper and animal wastes, called "biogas." Olatunbosun pursues various strategies for biogas technology, such as the implementation of biogas plants for domestic gas production, school laboratory biogas plants for scientific education, and the conversion of conventional septic tanks to biogas plants for energy production. A winner of the Nigerian Youth Leadership Awards 2008 by LEAP Africa Nigeria, Olatunbosun's innovative work also spans into the research and design of hydrogen bioreactors, microbial fuel cells and ecological engines.

Andy Okoroafor

Creative Director + Filmmaker + Publisher @ Clam Magazine



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Websites**Clam**

www.clammag.com

Clam Films

www.clamfilms.com

Biography

Andy studied filmmaking in Paris, France. After graduating, he started working in fashion instead. From styling to art direction, he became a sought-after creative director, developing images and catwalk shows for brands. A four-and-half-year stint as Creative Director for Images at Virgin Music France introduced his work to the music world, in which he developed images for bands and musicians from all music genres. He left Virgin to concentrate on Clam, the creative studio, *Clam Magazine*, a visual creative magazine he started years before, and to return to filmmaking, his first love, by creating a startup Clamfilms. *Clam Magazine* is now in its tenth year, and Andy has just finished his first feature film, *Relentless*, a project he wrote and directed.

Nina Paley

Animator / Cartoonist + Director @ Sita Sings the Blues / Free Culture Activist



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Websites

Sita Sings the Blues

www.sitasingstheblues.com

Personal Blog

www.blog.ninapaley.com

QuestionCopyright.org

www.questioncopyright.org

Biography

Nina is the creator of the animated musical feature film *Sita Sings the Blues*, which has screened in over 150 film festivals and won over 30 international awards including the Annecy Grand Crystal, The IFFLA Grand Jury Prize, and a Gotham Award. Her adventures in our broken copyright system led her to “copyleft” her film, and join QuestionCopyright.org as Artist-in-Residence. Prior to becoming an animator, Nina was a syndicated cartoonist; she is now re-releasing all her old comics under a Creative Commons Share Alike license. She teaches at Parsons School of Design and is a 2006 Guggenheim Fellow.

Gyanesh Pandey

Entrepreneur @ Husk Power Systems



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www.huskpowersystems.com

Biography

A seeker and innovator at his best, Gyanesh combines the best of developed ideas to reach the least developed and most underprivileged consumers. An engineer educated at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York, having spend six years in the semiconductor industry in Los Angeles, he moved back to his native place of Bihar to bring light to thousands of the rural folks who had yet to experience electricity, using the decades-old technology of gasification. He teamed up with like-minded friends to create the only enterprise of its kind in the world, the Husk Power System, which uses rice husk, usually a waste product, to power more than 5,000 households in over 30 villages, and the outreach is growing.

Jasmeen Patheja

Artist / Photographer + Videographer @ Blank Noise



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Websites

Blank Noise

www.blog.blanknoise.org

Blank Noise - Action Heroes

www.actionheroes.blanknoise.org

Blank Noise - Guy

www.bnguy.blanknoise.org

Biography

Jasmeen was born 1979, India. People and interaction form the basis of Jasmeen's work. Her work is interventionist by nature and uses a range of media: photography, video installation, sound, performance and blogging. She is the founding member of Blank Noise, a nation-wide, volunteer-led community arts collective that triggers public debate on the issue of street sexual harassment. It was initiated in 2003 as her final diploma thesis project at Srishti School of Art Design and Technology at a time when street sexual harassment was a non-issue. Selected projects include "Birth Control," where a group of young "heterosexual" boys in Leicester were photographed in women's garments. "Indri" is an ongoing collaborative photo-performance project with her grandmother Indri. The Bronx Museum of Arts commissioned Blank Noise to create "Moments of a Long Pause," a two-screen video installation based on interviews with men and women across five cities in India. The interviews explored boundaries between flirting, harassing, wooing, teasing and violating. Jasmeen is a photographer with Tasveer, Bangalore.

Amruta Patil

Independent Writer / Artist / Co-Editor @ Mindfields Magazine



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Websites**Umbilical: Personal Blog**

www.amrutapatil.blogspot.com

Mindfields

www.mindfields.in

Biography

Amruta is a writer and artist with an MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Her graphic novel, *Kari*, was published in English by HarperCollins-India and in French by Au Diable Vauvert. She is currently writer-in-residence at La Maison des Auteurs in France, working on *Parva/ The Epic*, a graphic novel based on the Mahabharata. Amruta is also the co-founder and Co-Editor of *Mindfields*, a quarterly print journal on ideas and learning.

Ashish Patra

Student



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Websites

Paper on Microbial Fuel Cells

www.wef.org/nr/rdonlyres/a94082e6-bf81-4806-ab4f-a210e74c3a1c/0/orpatra.pdf

Article about My Work

www.beavertonvalleytimes.com/news/story.php?story_id=124105185926294000

Biography

Ashish recently graduated as the class valedictorian from Sunset High School in Portland, Oregon. Next fall, he will join the Jerome Fisher M&T program at the University of Pennsylvania. His interests span from engineering and math to history and policy. In ninth grade he visited many rural areas in India with his father on a social service trip. There he noticed extensive lack of access to potable water and energy. He has conducted two research projects on appropriate technologies involving water and energy. One was on efficient microbial fuel cells that convert wastewater into clean water and electricity. The other project was cost-effectively harvesting energy from the sun using novel "water lenses." Some of his recent awards include the First Place Grand Award at the International Science and Engineering Fair 2009, the 2009 International BioGENEious Award, the MIT Think Award, and the Stockholm Junior Water Prize in 2008 and 2009. In the future, he plans to continue research on sustainable water and energy technologies.

Manasi Prasad

Classical Musician



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Websites**Personal Website**

www.manasiprasad.in

Biography

Manasi is a Carnatic classical vocalist who combines over two decades of rigorous training with a modern outlook. In addition to performing vocal concerts at some of the most prestigious venues of classical music in India, she has also toured extensively in the US, South America, Africa, South East Asia and the Middle East. She has recently been awarded the Bismillah Khan Award by the Government of India for excellence in music. Manasi is also a trained Indian classical dancer, and uses her dual abilities of singing and dancing to present features and demonstrations. She writes and speaks extensively on various art-related subjects and also hosts a TV show based on music and poetry. Manasi holds an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore, where she was awarded the Aditya Birla Scholarship. She is also an engineering graduate. She is currently embarking on an ambitious project to set up a music experience center, with the support of a leading real estate conglomerate in Bangalore.

Viraj Puri

Co-Founder + CEO @ Gotham Greens



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Websites

Gotham Greens

www.gothamgreens.com

Article about My Work

www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/queens/2009/06/14/2009-06-14_taking_green_to_new_level_citys_first_hydroponic_rooftop_farm_in_jamaica.html

Biography

Viraj is the co-founder and CEO of Gotham Greens, a New York-based company working to advance sustainable urban agriculture. Gotham Greens is creating New York City's first commercial-scale, sustainable rooftop farm. Prior to founding Gotham Greens, he was a Project Manager at New York Sun Works, an environmental engineering firm. Viraj has managed sustainable development projects in Ladakh, India and Malawi, Africa focusing on green buildings techniques, renewable energy, fuel-efficient cook-stoves, and environmental design. His written work has appeared in several publications including the UN Academic Journal. He has recently written a book, *100% Renewable: Energy Autonomy in Action*. Viraj has delivered presentations on sustainability at a variety of settings including the Parsons School of Design, Wageningen University, Urban Futures 2030 and Ecocities World Summit. He has received fellowships from the Wild Gift, where he is currently a board member, and the Environmental Leadership Program.

Kamal Quadir

Founder + CEO @ CellBazaar / Artist



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Websites

Cell Bazaar

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Emergence Bioenergy

www.emergencebioenergy.com

Anwarul Quadir Foundation

www.quadir.org

Biography

Kamal is Founder and CEO of CellBazaar, a communications company that has introduced a mobile phone-based electronic marketplace for developing countries. With 12 years of experience in finance, art, energy and animation, Kamal capitalized on the proliferation of mobile phones in Bangladesh to build a nationwide electronic marketplace that can be accessed by 23 million people. Under his leadership, CellBazaar won the Best Use of Mobile for Social and Economic Development Award 2008 from GSM Congress and Asia Telecom's Innovation of the Year 2008 Award. Previously, Kamal led the business development division of Occidental Corporation's energy initiatives in South Asia, and worked in the New York City Chamber of Commerce and with Insight Venture Partners. Kamal is a founding member of Open World Initiatives, a Lausanne, Switzerland-based organization of young thinkers. He is involved with Anwarul Quadir Foundation, which recognizes innovations in developing countries.

Aun Rahman

Pakistan Director @ Acumen Fund



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Websites

Acumen Fund

www.acumenfund.org

Biography

Originally from Karachi, Pakistan, Aun moved to the US to attend college at the University of Chicago. He began his professional career in economic and strategy consulting at CRA International in Boston, specializing in financial modeling and quantitative analysis. Aun joined the Acumen Fund in New York in 2003 as a Fellow, and his assignments included working for 18 months in the slums of Karachi with Acumen Fund investee Saiban to structure and incubate an affordable commercial housing project in Lahore, and to develop the organization's management information systems. In 2005, Aun became Acumen Fund's Country Director in Pakistan, setting up and building the Pakistan operations of the Fund. Under his oversight, Acumen's Fund portfolio of social investments in Pakistan has grown to include investments in micro-finance, affordable housing and housing finance, low-cost drip irrigation, micro-health insurance and others.

Puneet Rakheja

Filmmaker + Photographer @ Believe Media



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Websites

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No Toilet! No Bride!

www.puneetrakheja.com/notoilet/notoilet.html

Biography

Puneet believes if you can fight the mundane, it is an experience that can fill you up with curiosity that you may hunt for the rest of your life. A short film he made about the ubiquitous peepul tree, "Peepul," cemented Puneet's fascination with films. To further hone his filmmaking skills, Puneet moved to the renowned Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles. Often stuck on the freeways, he ended up greatly improving his patience levels and has since learned it is one of the most valuable skills needed as a filmmaker. Now, with all his curiosity stirred up, he is driven to create images, films, to communicate ideas, thoughts, emotions and, most importantly, to evoke a sense of the musicality of life in all its awkwardness. Puneet currently lives in Los Angeles and New Delhi.

Raghav Rangarajan

Entrepreneur / Engineer / Automobile Designer @ IgNite



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Websites**An Interview**

www.vimeo.com/4786078

Ignite the Garage

www.ignitethegarage.com

IgNite News

www.team-bhp.com/forum/indian-car-dealerships/59060-chennai-ignite-garage-4-8-5-a.html

Biography

Raghav is a highly passionate automobile enthusiast with gasoline running in his veins. He is founder of IgNite, a cutting edge automobile workshop |specializing in high-octane car service, performance modifications and race tuning.

Aparna Rao

Artist @ Applied Fiction Interaction Lab



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Websites**My Work**

www.porsandrao.com

Biography

Aparna, of Bangalore-based artist-duo Pors & Rao, works with the medium of electro-mechanical systems and interactive installations. Her subject matter springs from the complex undercurrents of human relationships, often finding inspiration in her own personal experiences. Her projects have been presented at numerous venues, among them The Museum of Israel, The Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art and at the 4th Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale. Besides her conceptual work, Aparna has straddled the worlds of design, innovation and entrepreneurship. She has undertaken a range of projects from the highly technical, such as the development of the complete interface of a virtual simulator for a combat aircraft, to the visceral, such as simple toys that make us sensitive to elusive thoughts. Aparna graduated from the National Institute of Design, India and completed a Master's from the Interaction Design Institute, Ivrea, Italy.

Nitin Rao

MBA Candidate @ MIT Sloan School of Management

Founder @ Engineers for Social Impact / Founder @ Let Me Know



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Engineers for Social Impact

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Let Me Know

www.letmeknow.in

NextBillion.net

www.nextbillion.net/blog/author/nitin-rao

Biography

Nitin is a candidate for an MBA in the Entrepreneurship and Innovation track at the MIT Sloan School of Management, and holds a Bachelor's degree from the National Institute of Technology, Karnataka, Surathkal, India. A StartingBloc Fellow, Nitin is passionate about using markets and enterprise to catalyze development, and has worked with social enterprises such as SKS Microfinance and The Spark Group. As the only Asian Staff Writer for NextBillion.net, a project of WRI and the Acumen Fund, Nitin analyzed sustainable business models aimed at the world's poorest citizens. His papers on sustainable investments in Indian education were accepted by *MIT International Review* and the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations On-Campus Conference. He is the founder of Engineers for Social Impact (a unique fellowship program connecting top talent to credible social enterprises), Let Me Know (an online community to share information of opportunities with the youth), and The Surathkal Innovation Challenge.

Rhini Rau

Sailor / Athlete / Student



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Websites**Personal Website**

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iSport

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Biography

Rohini started sailing at the age of 10 and is now campaigning towards the 2012 Olympic games. She is the national champion in the Laser Radial and 420 class. In 2004, she won India's first international gold medal in the women's category. Her current ISAF World Ranking is 158. In May 2009 she became the first Indian woman to win a medal at a Grade 3 event in an Olympic class. She is currently doing her third year MBBS at the Government Medical College, Chennai, India. She studied bharatnatyam dancing and the piano for 10 years. She also did tap dancing, jazz ballet and violin for three years. She has taken part in numerous theatre shows and choreographed the dances for a few as well. She sang playback for a Tamil film titled "3 Roses." She aims to be the first woman sailor to take part in the Olympics while pursuing a career in sport medicine.

Sharmistha Ray

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Art India Magazine Essay

www.artindiamag.com/quarter01_01_09/lead_essay01_01_09.html

Biography

Sharmistha was born in 1978 in Calcutta, India, and has lived in many parts of the world, including the Middle East, the United States, Europe and India. She received her BA from Williams College and followed it with a dual-degree MS in Art History and a MFA in Painting from the Pratt Institute in New York. In 2004, she was awarded the prestigious Joan Mitchell MFA Grant. Since 2006, Sharmistha has been the Director of Bodhi Art, an international gallery focused on contemporary Indian art, and has curated shows by some of India's leading contemporary artists like Subodh Gupta, Jitish Kallat and Shilpa Gupta. In August 2009, Sharmistha has been invited to the International Speakers' Forum at the India Art Summit. Sharmistha travels constantly for exhibitions abroad, continues to give lectures on art, and writes for Indian and foreign publications. She has been interviewed by *Financial Times*, *TIME*, *NZZ*, *Vogue India*, CNN and NDTV.

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Biography

Varun has focused on building, managing and investing in businesses for low-income communities for the past twelve years. As India Director of Acumen Fund, a global nonprofit social venture fund, Varun is responsible for all India-related investments, operations and business development activities. Additionally, as part of the portfolio management team, Varun is jointly responsible for the global portfolio of Acumen Fund. Prior to joining Acumen Fund, he worked with both for-profit and nonprofit organizations, focusing on enterprise creation across India. He has also been involved as an angel investor in a number of companies in the hospitality services, education, and food and beverage sectors across India. Varun is married with two children and based in the city of Hyderabad.

Kamesh Salam

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Biography

As Director of the Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre, Guwahati, Assam, India, promoted by UNIDO and the government of India, Kamesh oversees the functioning of more than 20 employees and leads the team in carrying out various activities in protecting the environment and promoting awareness of bamboo. The major achievement of his career has been his appointment as President of the World Bamboo Organisation for his contribution to the development of bamboo crafts and industries. He is also being inducted as a member of the Apex Committee of the National Bamboo Mission, launched by the government of India. His biggest contribution was the formulation of the National Bamboo Mission of India. As a consultant to UNIDO in organizing bamboo development programs in Northeast India and Ghana, he assisted the government of East Timor in establishing a bamboo processing and demonstration facility.

Shahida Saleem

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Biography

Shahida offers a unique skill set and experience in building sustainable social development programs, while using private sector partners and emerging technologies. Shahida has over sixteen years of international business and management experience. Her core strengths include designing and managing complex programs that apply sustainable solutions to core development areas, with a particular focus on social development initiatives in Pakistan. Her most recent projects in Pakistan have built an integrated approach to key nation-building areas including education, health and women's empowerment.

Kartick Satyanarayan

Senior Conservationist @ Wildlife SOS



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Biography

Kartick's passion to protect nature and its endangered inhabitants has kept him working in wildlife conservation for over fifteen years. He has worked on tiger ecology and pioneered the concept of working with indigenous communities through Wildfire SOS, an NGO he founded with Geeta Seshamani. He is working to bring an end to the 300-year-old barbaric practice of "dancing bears" by providing alternative livelihoods to the Kalandar community so they don't need to exploit wild animals to support their families. (Poachers kill mother bears and steal bear cubs, which are then trained to perform street tricks using painfully cruel techniques.) To prevent bear cub poaching he created an anti-poaching unit, Forest-watch, which liaisons with enforcement agencies like the police and forest departments to arrest poachers. Kartick is a Honorary Wildlife Warden of Delhi, a member of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and a member of the Central Zoo Authority for the government of India.

Shiladitya Sengupta

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Biography

Shiladitya obtained his Bachelor's and Master's from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, where he received the Geeta Mital Gold Medal. He then went to Trinity College, University of Cambridge as a British Chevening and Nehru Scholar for his PhD in pharmacology. His postdoctoral training was in biological engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has received the Shakuntala Amir Chand Prize from the Indian Council for Medical Research and the Young Investigator award from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. He was recently selected for the TR35 Top 35 Innovators in the World Award by *Technology Review Magazine*. He has also received the DoD Era of Hope award for research in breast cancer. He is the cofounder of Cerulean Pharmaceuticals, Cambridge, and Mitra Life Sciences, Chennai. He is currently working with the government of India to establish a new Translational Health Science and Technology Institute in NCR Delhi. His laboratory at Harvard Medical School is considered as one of the pioneers in the emerging area of nanomedicine.

Chirag Shah

CEO @ Sarvajal (Piramal Water) / Co-Founder @ Indicorps

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Biography

Anand is CEO of Sarvajal, a social enterprise increasing access to pure drinking water through entrepreneurship. He is also CEO of the Piramal Foundation, where he helps India's youth actively participate in national progress, and incubates rural social enterprises. Anand graduated from Harvard College in 1999 and spent two years helping launch the Media and Technology Charter High School. In 2001, he moved to India to start Indicorps, a program started with his siblings to encourage Peace Corps-like service from the Indian Diaspora. He has long been a proponent of developing public service programs, and was involved in helping launch national service programs such as Teach For India. Anand is also a consultant to the upcoming Vedanta University in Orissa. He is a member of the Aspen Institute's inaugural India Leadership Initiative, and on the board of organizations including Copilot International.

Parmesh Shahani

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Biography

Parmesh is the author of the book *Gay Bombay: Globalization, Love and (Be)Longing in Contemporary India*. He has degrees in Media Studies, Education and Commerce from MIT and the University of Mumbai, and has just begun the PhD program at the Annenberg School for Communication, at the University of Pennsylvania. Until this July, Parmesh worked within the corporate world in India on new media, venture capital and innovation for Mahindra & Mahindra. His other work experiences have spanned the Internet, film, print and education spaces. He presently serves as Editor-at-Large for *Verve* magazine, India, and is also affiliated with MIT's Convergence Culture Consortium. Parmesh often presents on different aspects of creative and corporate India at forums such as Next Media, XMedia Lab and at institutions like the Berghs School of Communication. He has served as a judge at the British Council's Young Fashion Entrepreneur of the Year Award, India, and Marie Claire's "Made in India" Fashion Awards.

Alanna Shaikh

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Biography

Alanna is a global health and development specialist with a decade of experience in the Middle East and Central Asia. She blogs on global health for Change.org, and on international development at Blood and Milk; she is also a contributor at UN Dispatch and IRIN. She has worked for NGOs, companies, the US government and the UN. She's currently working for a health sector reform project as a tuberculosis advisor, and writing a book about global health. Alanna is committed to finding ways to improve international development work, and believes that its guiding principle should be equal partnership. Alanna holds an undergraduate degree from Georgetown University, and a Master's in Public Health from Boston University. She speaks Russian, Uzbek, French and a smattering of Arabic. Originally from upstate New York, she lives in Dushanbe, Tajikistan with her husband, son and parents. She has also lived in Egypt, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Rose Shuman

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Biography

Rose is the founder and CEO of Open Mind–Question Box. Question Box brings information to people who may never get online in their lifetime, utilizing local language telephone hotlines and live operators. In India, Question Boxes are public call boxes. Users push a button to talk with a local language operator. In Uganda, the Question Box service is promoted in the field, person-to-person by local agents with mobile phones. These agents come from our partner, Grameen Foundation. Additionally, Rose consults on social enterprise and business development in the developing world. Previously, she was head of marketing for Adlens, an Oxford, UK social enterprise startup, and Senior Programme Manager for Adaptive Eyewear, a nonprofit dedicated to correcting vision in the developing world. Prior, Rose was Corporate and Foundation Relations Manager at Direct Relief International, one of the largest nonprofits in the United States in terms of revenue. Rose holds a BA and Masters from Brown University in International Development, as well as a BA in Visual Arts.

Santosh Sigdel

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Biography

Santosh is a Nepali human rights lawyer. He did his LLM in Human Rights Law from Central European University, Hungary Budapest. He works for Freedom Forum, a Nepali organization working for the protection and promotion of freedom of expression in Nepal. Similarly, he is a founding member of Citizens' Campaign for Right to Information. Mr. Sigdel also worked for Article 19, an international organization promoting the right to freedom of expression and information globally. Santos has written a number of articles and books.

Anindya Sinha

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www.ncf-india.org/people.php?name=anindya+sinha

Biography

Rana is a Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore and Senior Scientist at the Nature Conservation Foundation in Mysore, both in southern India. During his wanderings over the Indian subcontinent, he mainly studied botany in Calcutta University in Kolkata in eastern India and earned a doctorate in Molecular Biology from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai, western India, in 1990. His early research concerned the biochemical genetics of yeast, social biology of wasps, population genetics of elephants and the classical genetics of human disease, which he pursued at the Indian Institute of Science and National Centre for Biological Sciences, both in Bangalore. His research interests over the last two decades have primarily been in the areas of animal behavioral ecology, cognitive ethnology, behavioral genetics and conservation biology, particularly of primates.

Sandeep Sood

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Biography

Sandeep is Founder and Executive Director of Monsoon Company, a software consultancy with offices in the US and India. He is also the lead writer for Badmash.tv, an animation studio. Sandeep is currently working on an awards show that honors global teams, an animated series about marriage, and a few software development projects. He also serves on the board of Project Ahimsa, a nonprofit dedicated to youth empowerment through music. Sandeep lives in Berkeley, California with his wife and three children.

Matthew Spacie

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Clear Trip

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Biography

Following his graduation and a number of management positions in the UK, Matthew was posted to India at the age of 29 as the COO for Cox and Kings, then India's largest travel company. In February 1999, Matthew initiated Magic Bus to work with children dwelling on the street outside his office. Having played international rugby for India, he used this as his platform to engage these young men, starting a rugby team called "Magic Bus." He resigned from his job in 2001 to work full-time for Magic Bus. In July 2002, Matthew was awarded an Ashoka Fellowship, and in 2007 he was awarded an MBE for services to children in the Commonwealth. He is on the board of a number of nonprofits and he is also co-founder of ClearTrip.com, India's second largest online travel portal. Matthew is the CEO of Magic Bus in India and the UK.

Chelsea Strayer

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www.partyinghana.blogspot.com

Biography

Chelsea is a PhD candidate at Boston University in Biological and Cultural Anthropology, where she studies Asante indigenous healing rituals in Ghana. Her research originated with one question: why do patients continue to utilize indigenous healers when biomedicine is readily available? Over the course of eight years she discovered that indigenous healing focuses on two factors that biomedicine often neglects: social support and stress reduction. In short, they utilize the placebo effect as a resource, while biomedicine tends to dismiss it as a nuisance. Because stress is the primary factor in the creation, exacerbation and mediation of both mental and physical illnesses, its manipulation is paramount to treatment outcomes. At a time when the waste of natural resources is receiving attention, one cannot help but wonder if we will recognize the gross neglect of more immaterial resources like the placebo effect. Rather than explaining away placebo results, what could happen if we utilized them?

Arunraj Subbaraj

Entrepreneur @ Lotus Paints

Mentor @ Ashwa Racing, RV College of Engineering



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Biography

Arunraj is a young entrepreneur from India who is currently managing Lotus Paints, heading its operation in Oman. He started Ashwa Racing Foundation in 2003 in RV College of Engineering, which trains young undergraduates to participate in SAE automotive projects. Through these projects he established a platform for industry-institute partnership that caters to professional development and technology transfer to young students. In 2007 Arunraj, representing Ashwa Racing Foundation, won the Young Achiever's Award by Rotary International. He continues to mentor Ashwa Racing, enabling the students to perform better in the SAE events, and also giving an opportunity for the industries to identify young talents in the area of recruitment. In the recent times, his visits to many countries has enabled him to focus on global warming, and he is in the pursuit of designing self-sustainable transportation management systems.

Roshini Thinakaran

Independent Filmmaker + Founder @ Women at the Forefront



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Emerging Explorers Profile

www.nationalgeographic.com/field/explorers/roshini-thinakaran.html

Biography

A National Geographic Emerging Explorer, Roshini is recognized as an emerging filmmaker making a difference in the world. Stemming from over two years of experience in war zones and hostile environments including Liberia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Iraq and Lebanon, Roshini created Women at the Forefront in 2006, a multimedia project examining war and conflict through the eyes of women. Her first stab at producing documentaries was the short film “Women & War: Liberia,” a profile of three women rebuilding war-torn Liberia. It became the catalyst behind the Empowering Women in Africa program, a conference that brings together leading experts on Africa to discuss challenges faced by women on the continent. *What Was Promised* is Thinakaran’s first feature-length documentary. The documentary focuses on the US-led initiative to integrate Iraqi women into the Iraqi security forces. In 2009, Women at the Forefront partnered with London-based TVF International to distribute the film internationally.

Jijo Ulahannan

Lecturer @ Government College Madappally, Kozhikode, Kerala

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Biography

Born in and idyllic village in Kerala, India, Jijo graduated in physics and completed a PhD in Photonics at the Cochin University of Science and Technology, India last year. Jijo teaches physics at Government College, located in northern Kerala, and finds enough time to motivate students to dream and work hard to achieve their goals. He finds it easy to communicate with colleagues and organize them for a better cause, and is a member of national and international organizations on the academic, professional and social front. Presently he is involved in writing two books, one on history and philosophy of science, and the other on perspectives and methodology of physical sciences. He is ambitious about becoming an active researcher, educator and motivator.

Amit Varma

Novelist + Blogger @ India Uncut



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Biography

Amit is a novelist and blogger based in Mumbai. He has worked in advertising, television and journalism, and has written for publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian* and *Wisden*, as well as many Indian publications. In 2007, he won the Bastiat Prize for Journalism. He is best known for the award-winning blog, India Uncut, where he mixes acute social and political commentary with a quirky appreciation of the WTFness of life. His first novel, *My Friend Sancho*, was released in India in May 2009, and became the biggest-selling Indian novel released that summer, with 15,000 copies sold in its first few weeks. He aims to bridge the gap between literary and popular fiction with his novels, and is currently at work on his second book. In 2009, *Business Week* named him one of India's 50 Most Powerful People.

Gaurav Vaz

Entrepreneur @ Muckwork / OML Digital / RadioVeRve
Musician / Techie



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The Raghu Dixit Project

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Biography

Gaurav's motto in life is to try everything at least once, and he is well on his way to doing just that! What started as a career as a software developer in India's vast software industry took dramatic turns and led him through other domains of the industry before finally settling down to his first love: music. Gaurav was always a musician in the wrong field and continued to pursue his passion while being an engineer, playing the bass guitar for one of India's most well-known folk fusion bands, The Raghu Dixit Project. His love for the Indian indie music scene led him to partner with Shreyas Srinivasan to start what was India's first and only Internet radio station dedicated to playing original indie music. He currently is the Vice President for Muckwork, the new company started by Derek Sivers (of CD Baby fame), and is also working in the Indian indie music scene through OML Digital.

Nikhil Velpanur

Entrepreneur



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Biography

Nikhil is an entrepreneur, innovator, social activist, writer and occasional photographer. At age 20, he founded his first company, a magazine called *Strange Brew*, a user-generated, counterculture magazine that was founded on the premise that if the media could fuel people's minds with news and gossip, it would also be possible to empower and transform them through the pages of a magazine. After the magazine crashed and burnt, he helped revive it and get profitable as a media house that makes documentaries. He also founded a company called LetsHead.to, which is a marketplace for food and drink experiences. LetsHead.to partners with restaurants and pubs to sell their inventory online. He is a very passionate social activist, and is part of a new-age innovation consultancy that engages with nonprofits and companies to help them achieve their goals through radical innovation.

Pooja Warier

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Biography

Pooja is the co-founder and Director of UnLtd India and Journeys for Change. UnLtd India finds, funds and supports startup social entrepreneurs in India. Journeys for Change inspires leaders and social entrepreneurs to create more impact through learning from some of world's most exciting changemakers. Previously, Pooja has worked with a range of organizations and initiatives like the World Social Forum and the MV Foundation. She has a MA in social work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai.

Aparna Wilder

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Biography

Aparna was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and majored in History and Sociology of Science and Environmental Studies. She also played four years of varsity field hockey for her college team. Aparna did a year-long service fellowship with Indicorps, which took her to remote villages across Southern India and taught her about development from a grassroots perspective. She then spent a year in Mumbai and worked as a journalist with the Indian Express Newspapers. In 2006, she completed her Masters in Public Administration from Columbia University and moved to Mumbai to start her own business. Together, she and her husband run Global Rickshaw, which makes short films for nonprofit organizations and socially responsible businesses; and Wildkumar Moving Pictures, which makes music videos and television commercials.

Tony Yet

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Biography

Tony is the co-founder of the website TEDtoChina.com and curator of TEDx SYSU. Since the launch of the website in November 2008, it has become a daily obsession for him and a source of inspiration for many non-English-speaking Chinese. The main motivation behind this site is to ignite changes through conversations about ideas and to inspire young people with heartfelt stories. Tony believes in the free flow of knowledge and ideas across boundaries. He is also a staunch advocate for free software. He is working on a book that is meant to demystify the open source paradigm. Also a voracious reader and a word hunter, Tony likes digging into the history of words and learn their stories, which he found out to be an interesting way to learn about other cultures.

Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

TED Hosts

The TED Fellows team would like to additionally thank the TED Fellows hosts who have so greatly contributed to the TEDIndia Fellows program both before and during the conference.



Pragnya Alekal: Pragnya is an international development consultant for developing countries. An engineer by training, she works with NGOs, government, and private agencies to build sustainable water, sanitation and energy projects in slum and rural areas. She researches and blogs regularly about innovative technology and business enterprises in these communities. Pragnya was a TED2009 Fellow in Long Beach.



Faisal Chohan: Faisal is a technology entrepreneur from Pakistan. In 2002 he founded Cogilent Solutions, a technology startup, and currently runs the leading job portal in Pakistan, BrightSpyre.com. He was an MIT EF business acceleration program finalist in 2008 and a TED2009 Fellow in Long Beach. Faisal is currently working on creating a new paradigm for job search, especially in developing countries.



VK Madhavan: Madhavan is the Executive Director of Chirag, a rural development organization working in the Kumaun Himalayas. Madhavan is interested in issues that affect the lives of the poor in rural India and, in particular, agriculture, craft, off-farm options and community action. Madhavan was a 2009 TEDGlobal Fellow in Oxford.



Yatin Sethi: Yatin is a social entrepreneur from India. He has experience in design and technology and is currently working on utilizing information technology and social media to bring about social change in developing countries. Yatin was a TED2009 Fellow in Long Beach.



Mohammad Tauheed: Tauheed is a practicing architect in Dhaka and the founder and Chief Editor of ArchSociety.com. ArchSociety is a growing online forum, news service and open-source resource library to support architects and students in need in developing nations worldwide. Tauheed was a TED2009 Fellow in Long Beach.

Colophon

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