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IFL - Part 22 – Indian Shining Stars

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IFL Part 22 - Indian Shining Stars

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April 11, 2019

Greetings!

Embassy of India is happy to learn that Indian Frontliners is celebrating its 22nd Anniversary on 26th April 2019.

On this occasion, Embassy of India congratulates all the office-bearers and members of the Indian Frontliners, Kuwait and conveys its Best Wishes for the success of the event.

(Sanjeev Saklani)
Second Secretary (PIC & Education)

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FOREWORD

It was in 2007 that the Indian Frontliners first published the achievements of Indian expatriate women in Kuwait.

Today, we take this opportunity to release a special issue to celebrate the grit and determination, the talent and success, the dreams and aspirations of many Indian women living in Kuwait.

The women profiled here come from diverse regions of India, have had a varied upbringing and have different interests. But there is a common thread that binds them together... the power to dream and the determination to achieve those dreams.

While we have tried to reach out to as many shining stars as possible, the response has been so overwhelming that we could not include them all in the book. However, we salute all the yet un-sung tales, and promise to publish their profiles online in the months to come.

This book is a humble attempt by Indian Frontliners to encourage and acknowledge all the true Indian heroines in Kuwait and wish them all success.

Indian Frontliners is proud to bring to you these stories of success and service. The book contains brief article of these women and you can access their full stories at

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Message

Ananthi Natarajan

President,
Indian Frontliners

My sincere Greetings to you all!

It is heart-warming to address through this 22nd volume of Book on Indian Talented Women by our beloved Writer N.C. Mohandoss, Founder, Indian FrontLiners, during our Annual Program on 26th April 2019.

I find no words to appreciate IFL editorial team for the untiring and relentless efforts to perpetuate a moment for 21 years to keep our spirits high in serving the society.

All the efforts day-in day-out to identify and then collect information from so many resulted today in making this book a reality.

I am very glad that, this book has covered a wide band-width of women in various walks of life in Kuwait and the same will motivate many other women to spring into society-oriented activities.

We always feel proud to be associated with IFL to continue our services to society through these books and today, is another proud moment in the history of IFL.

Er. P. Senthil Kumar M.S.

Vice-President- Indian Frontliners
EQUATE Petrochemicals Company, Kuwait

For 22 years now, Indian Frontliners has built a unique position among the Indians living in Kuwait.

I am Happy to be part of IFL 22nd book release event.

I appreciate the charitable activities undertaken by Indian Frontliners, which has helped many needy people in India as well as in Kuwait.

India, the world's fastest-growing major economy, could do a lot better if only it treated its women better. Over the last decade, India has shown considerable improvement in achieving gender equality in areas such as education and health care. Improving the quality of work and its remuneration and enhancing the well-being of women are an urgent priority.

Let us join with IFL team in celebrating women talents and their achievements

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Message

M A. ASAD KHAN

GM-Managing Partner- KSCS,

G5 Gen. Trading & Al Lewaa security services

I am pleased IFL, Kuwait is organizing a function on April 26th 2019, during which the 22nd annual volume of IFL, featuring articles on women talents will be released.

The history of Indian women is full of pioneers, who have broken gender barriers and worked hard for their rights and made progress in the field of politics, arts, science, law etc. Let's celebrate our Indian women's great achievements.

I am proud to be part of IFL from the begining team spirit and solidarity is unmatchable. The close rapport that this team has established with different agencies and functionaries of the Government has contributed a lot to serve the Indians in Kuwait.

Many projects in India have been funded by Indian Frontliners, Kuwait and I am sure a lot of people must have been benefitted by those projects.

Very well done Frontliners! Keep it up!

I wish all the best and pray to Almighty that the Frontliners, keep growing and keep helping people in need!

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Message

ASHOK KALRA
(Managing Director/Partner)
MUGHAL MAHAL GEN TRAD & CONT CO.W.L.L.
Fmr. Hon. Chairman (Indian Community School)

I am happy to learn that Indian Frontliners are bringing out their 22nd edition exhibiting the success stories of leading Indian women in Kuwait.

Indian women are intelligent, hard-working, courageous and full of love and compassion. Endowed with the qualities of beauty, love, strength, tolerance, sacrifice and creativity, they can do wonders for themselves and for others. The book which IFL is releasing on women talents shows guidance to our youth to follow the right path which develops leadership quality, honesty etc. in the present and future generations.

Irrespective of religion, caste and regional boundaries the excellent cross cultural, humanitarian activities which IFL team has achieved not only makes it worthy to congratulate them but also makes it our duty to support them morally and physically.

IFL, founded by Writer N.C.Mohandoss is sure to be an inspiration to all young persons by showing them the joy that comes out of social service activities. My best wishes to each and every member of the IFL team!

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Message

SK.WADAWAN

Managing Partner

Samara Auto Parts

I am happy that as part of "INDIAN FRONTLIERS" series of books, Mohandoss is bringing out IFL Part-22 - a book focusing on Indian women talents.

Modern India needs women as equal partners in development. It is our fundamental duty to ensure the participation of women in every field of life, be it social or economic life.

The team of IFL, ranging from top businessmen, engineers, doctors to workers have unified under the banner of INDIAN FRONTLINERS in an astonishing way for years to contribute money, time and efforts to bring happiness and cheer to the lives of others.

It is an honour to be associated from inception with such an organization. I would like to convey my best wishes to members of IFL on the occasion of the launch of the 22nd edition of IFL and wish the event all success.

Aziz F

Tajmahal Marbles,

Kuwait

I am excited to note that Indian Frontliners is releasing IFL Part-22 book featuring articles on prominent personalities at their annual function to be held on April 26th 2019.

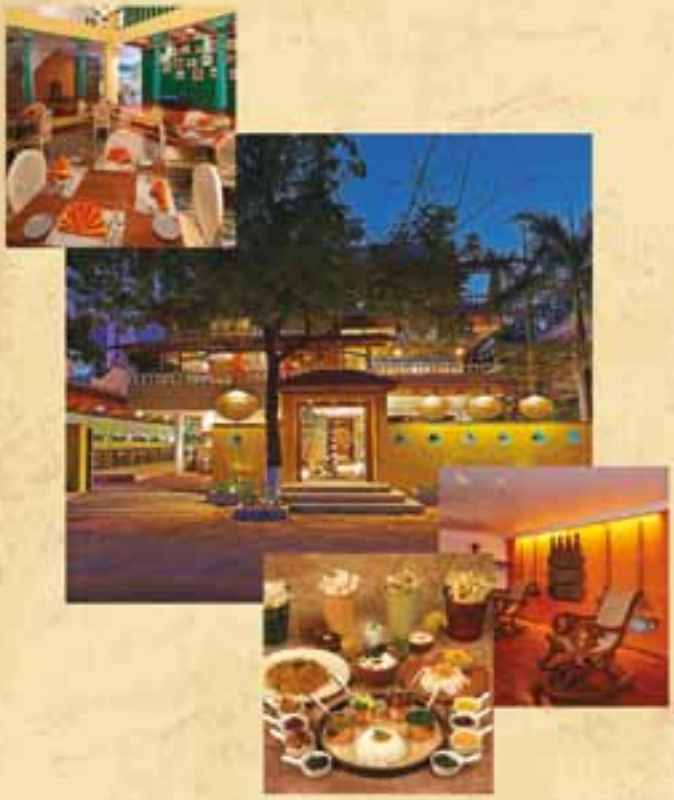
IFL has become an example for the Indian Community because of their active socio-cultural organization doing charitable work by extending a helping hand to those in need both in Kuwait and India through its selfless and dedicated service.

The importance of women in today's modern society can no longer be underestimated. They have made great economic contribution to family, organisation, and the society at large. Women are very important in our society.

Best wishes.

With the
true experience of home
comes happiness !

Paati Veedu



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Message

Kuldeep Singh Lamba

Managing Director,

Abdulhadi AlMailem Trading Co. W.L.L.

IFL completing more than 2 decades of service is a big achievement which is to be applauded. Twenty two years is a long time, hats off to you and your dedication!

As of today women are found to be working in all fields and they are distinguishing themselves in those fields. A few of them have been great political leaders, entrepreneurs, administrators and business persons. This marked change in their outlook, social and economic status reflects the fact that their emancipation has become almost completed.

I am glad to know that IFL is bringing out its 22nd book focusing on Indian women talents in Kuwait. All of us are proud of the Indian women who are rendering yeoman services in Kuwait and wish them and their families all success, happiness and God's grace. My compliments to IFL Team for their praiseworthy efforts in bringing out this useful book.

S. Ramadoss

MD, Global Technology Co.

My congratulations to all members of FRONTLINERS for the release of IFL part-22nd Indian women talents book at the grand annual function on 26th April, 2019.

The untiring and sustained efforts by FRONTLINERS over the years is a proof of the deep commitment of the members both to serve the needy section of the society and to work together as a cohesive team. They truly live up to the motto of FRONTLINERS "United To Serve; United We Serve".

It is undeniable that through the centuries, the role of women in the home, family and society in general has evolved tremendously. Even today, the modern woman is a working mom, a corporate head, business tycoon, social issues advocate, politician and leader; hers is a strong and empowering voice, a presence that cannot be ignored.

I would like to congratulate the IFL team for motivating women to transform their societies, and in turn the country.

We make it a journey to remember.

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Message

Ravi Varrier

CEO, Al Rashed Int. Shipping

I am pleased to learn that Indian Frontliners is bringing out their 22nd edition exhibiting the success stories of leading Indian women talents and their 22nd year Annual celebrations on 26th April 2019. The team of IFL, under the leadership of N.C.Mohandoss, have proved how every person, irrespective of his social or financial status, can contribute to the welfare of the society.

Women are the epitome of strength, love, sacrifice and courage. The role of women in today's world has changed significantly and for the better. Women are now self-sufficient, well aware and financially independent. They have attained immense success in every field, whether it is sports, politics or academics.

This book which IFL is releasing shows that we need to encourage women of courage, ingenuity, vision and achievement to realize humanity's noblest and vital projects of sustainable development and peace and security.

Nitin Singhvi

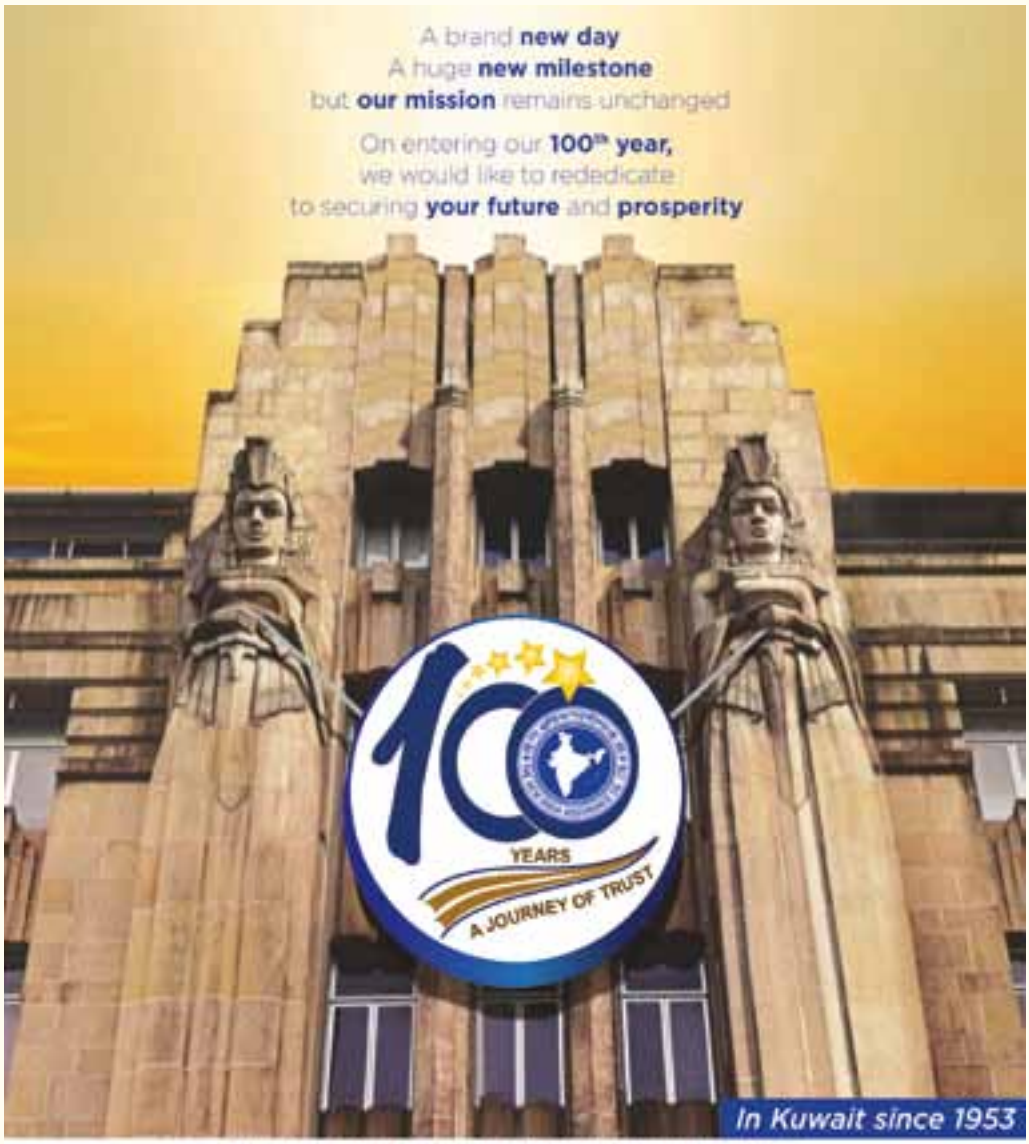
Senior Vice President & COO, ATC

Congratulations to IFL team for publishing part-22 Indian women talents book at the mega IFL Annual Function on 26th April, 2019. It seems to be a lovely book.

Indian Frontliners works as a cohesive group of volunteers united to serve a cause.

Indian Women have demonstrated through their life and work, and their leadership in governance, diplomacy, social and political change for gender equality and women's empowerment causes, that women make a difference— not just a small difference but a big and critical one.

You've made us all so proud by publishing a book about Indian women talents. Not only the book, the IFL's events and functions are also organized efficiently to always bring enjoyment to all.



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Message

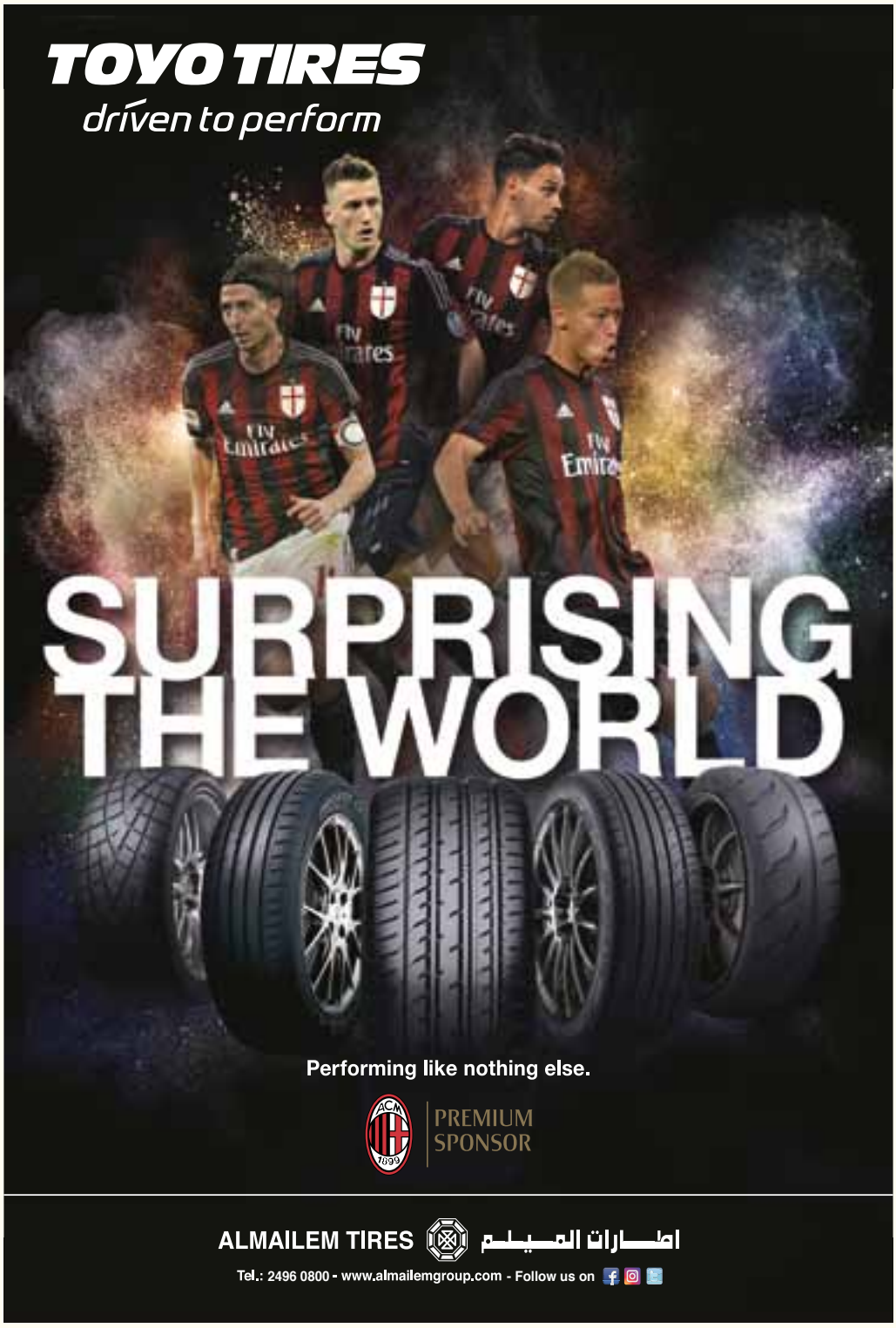
Dr. S.M. Hyder Ali
Chairman,
TVS Hyder Group

I am happy to see the team coming together for publishing IFL part-22 Indian women talents book on April 26th, 2019 to put up a well-planned show with noble guests from motherland to extend a helping hand to the needy and the poor back home.

I am very glad for joining IFL in their numerous humanitarian, medical and educational support ventures for the less privileged in society. Service to community originates with a mind to sacrifice, a sense of compassion and exhibition of ultimate endurance. Such human involvement is a blessing to society and an act of appreciation by one & all.

Women play a key role in food production and form a large proportion of the agricultural work force globally. Many of the world's most poor are women. Poverty eradication is a key challenge for rural women. We have to shape new laws, policies and programmes on all issues that affect their lives, including improved food and nutrition security, and better rural livelihoods.

I do appreciate the efforts of IFL for their dedicated work for the Indian women talents book published and wish them all the success for their annual function as well as for their future social service activities.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Message

Dr. R. Seetharaman

CEO,

Doha Bank Group

Congratulations on the upcoming publication of IFL part-22 book about women talents. Your voice is bright and new in a way that is not self-conscious.

Women are at the root of society, holding it together. Women are the thread that runs through the fabric of society. Acting as one, they will change the world. We can´t forget that women´s life is a lot more complicated than a man´s life. Personally, I can´t imagine my life without the image and the support of my mother and wife.

I would like to thank IFL for bringing us together to celebrate a constellation of Indian women talents which aims at giving a big push for women to be granted equal and full voice for their participation everywhere.

K. Mathi

General Secretary,

INDIAN FRONTLINERS

In the past 22 years, INDIAN FRONTLINERS has been doing a tremendous work in providing tireless service to our society. It was the responsibility of each one of us to give back to the society, and to take care of the needy people. Members of IFL have united for this purpose and cause.

With the history of IFL, it proves that each and every member have contributed in one or the other ways for the well-being of the distressed and needy people in our society and stranded labours in Kuwait. Moreover, these services were rendered by the IFL members, who are the volunteers from different background.

I consider myself to be blessed for being a part of IFL for so many years in providing my services for the society. I thank all our Sponsors for their financial and moral support and all our Patrons, Volunteers & their family members, and Friends for their services and support.

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Samina Mullick

A Philanthropist, an entrepreneur, and a home maker!

Samina Mullick, is a selfless personality who opened up many avenues of helping the community. She has a business degree and she is the managing partner at Al Kulaib International Trading Company.

Samina's services are extended to public through NGO and schools run by her. 'Mullick Welfare Trust' is a family trust which is managed by her. Some of the activities of the trust include:

Milk Bank: Fresh cow's milk is distributed to deserving infants and children on a daily basis.

Women's Education: Right to learn with age no bar; 40 full time ladies enrolled and they learn how to read and write, about life skills and hygiene. Even 60 years old are part of this program.

Tailoring classes: To encourage women self-employment, tailoring classes are offered twice a week. Once they get the certificate on completion of the course they are given sewing machines to start their livlihood.

Saturday Lunch: Every Saturday lunch is organised for the needy.

Community Centres Renovation Project: 13 masjids are being renovated to accommodate elderly and young for evening classes and socialising.

Monthly Pension: Many underprivileged and needy get pension every month.

Helping Hands: Donations for marriage for deserving girls to bear their wedding expenses.

Apart from the activities through her NGO and schools, she does many humanitarian activities including blankets distribution during winters, food distribution during Ramadan, Medical camps etc.

Samina is indeed a great model for each one of us who wants to dedicate her life for selfless service to the society. May God bless her with more and more successful projects!

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Dr. Saroj Bala Grover

Compassionate Doctor- Passionate Community Worker- Consummate Organizer

Our community has many everyday heroes who have significant positive impact on our lives. Dr. Saroj Bala Grover is one such who has tirelessly served her community as a doctor as well as a benefactor of many philanthropic and social activities.

She was born in Tanzania. At the age of sixteen, she had the courage to travel alone on a ship for days from Tanzania to India to pursue her dream of being a doctor. She lived in Iran and Austria before relocating to Kuwait in 1981 and started working at the Infectious Disease Hospital, MOH, Kuwait.

Her special interests are Hepatitis and AIDS. In fact she is the only female doctor in Kuwait who treats female HIV patients to successfully deliver healthy babies. Dr. Saroj has done ground breaking research in Hepatitis E and published articles in International Journals. She also lectures on these topics at different universities abroad. She has authored a health guide on Infectious Diseases with the Indian Doctors Forum and a booklet on most common infectious diseases treated at MOH Hospitals in Kuwait.

Dr. Saroj is a compassionate doctor who is a pillar of support for her patients. As a survivor of three political wars and her own cancer, she captures the minds and hearts of her patients with her own fascinating stories of survival. She lived through Tanzania's independence turmoil and escaped from Iran post the Islamic Revolution in 1979. In 1990, she was in Kuwait when Iraq invaded it, she continued to go to the hospital to treat patients. Though she left later, Dr. Saroj was one of the early doctors to return to Kuwait in 1991 while the oil wells were still burning. Her resilience was brought to the forefront when she had to fight her own cancer.

She has a great passion for yoga which she performs regularly. At every stage in her life, she has been active in philanthropy, attending health camps for the poor, giving health awareness lectures in schools, sponsoring eye operation camps in rural parts of India (Rajasthan). She also sponsors the education of many children. She helped in establishing the American School of Kuwait and was on the Board of Trustees. In Kuwait she runs a non-profit organization for children "Kalakriti" – to engage children in creative activities. Dr Saroj has also set up the Brilliant Education Trust for refugee children. She served as Vice President of the Indian Doctors Forum for four years. It is not surprising that she was featured as a Woman of Substance by KTV2. She is a role model and an inspiration for all of us.

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Dr. Madhu Gupta

Drive and determination will keep you going

Dr Madhu Gupta is a prominent Gynecologist presently working at Farwaniya Hospital, Kuwait.

Hailing from Lucknow, Madhu was brilliant since childhood. She completed her medical graduation and postgraduation (Obstetrics & Gynecology) from GSVM Medical college, Kanpur.

During her medical schooling she was married to Dr Raghubir who is now working at Al Sabah Hospital. Dr Madhu & Dr Raghubir are blessed with three children.

Her academic excellence has led her to a Fellowship from Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, London. She went to USA, Canada & Europe for training courses in endoscopic surgery, robotic surgery and laser procedures.

She is also a tutor at Kuwait university, training Gyne Post Graduate Board Residents. She has authored and co-authored various scientific papers published in reputed Obstetric & Gynecology Journals. Adaptation and capability are great qualities that help her to cope with different challenges in her life.

Dr Madhu is presently Vice President of Indian Doctors Forum, Kuwait. She is committed to her responsibilities to the society and has led and participated in different Medical camps serving the less privileged patients of the community. She has conducted many talks and seminars in different schools to address adolescent health concerns. She has also contributed immensely to Breast Cancer Awareness seminars.

Music is her passion and she is a great singer reflecting talent inherited from her mother. She believes in a balanced life. According to her, prioritizing work, structuring time and leveraging technology to work smarter with frequent breaks to rejuvenate along with personal fitness and a balanced diet are the keys to have a balanced mind and life.

"Drive and determination will keep you going no matter what the obstacles." That's the idiom Dr. Madhu Gupta lives by.

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Dr. Tahseen Khan

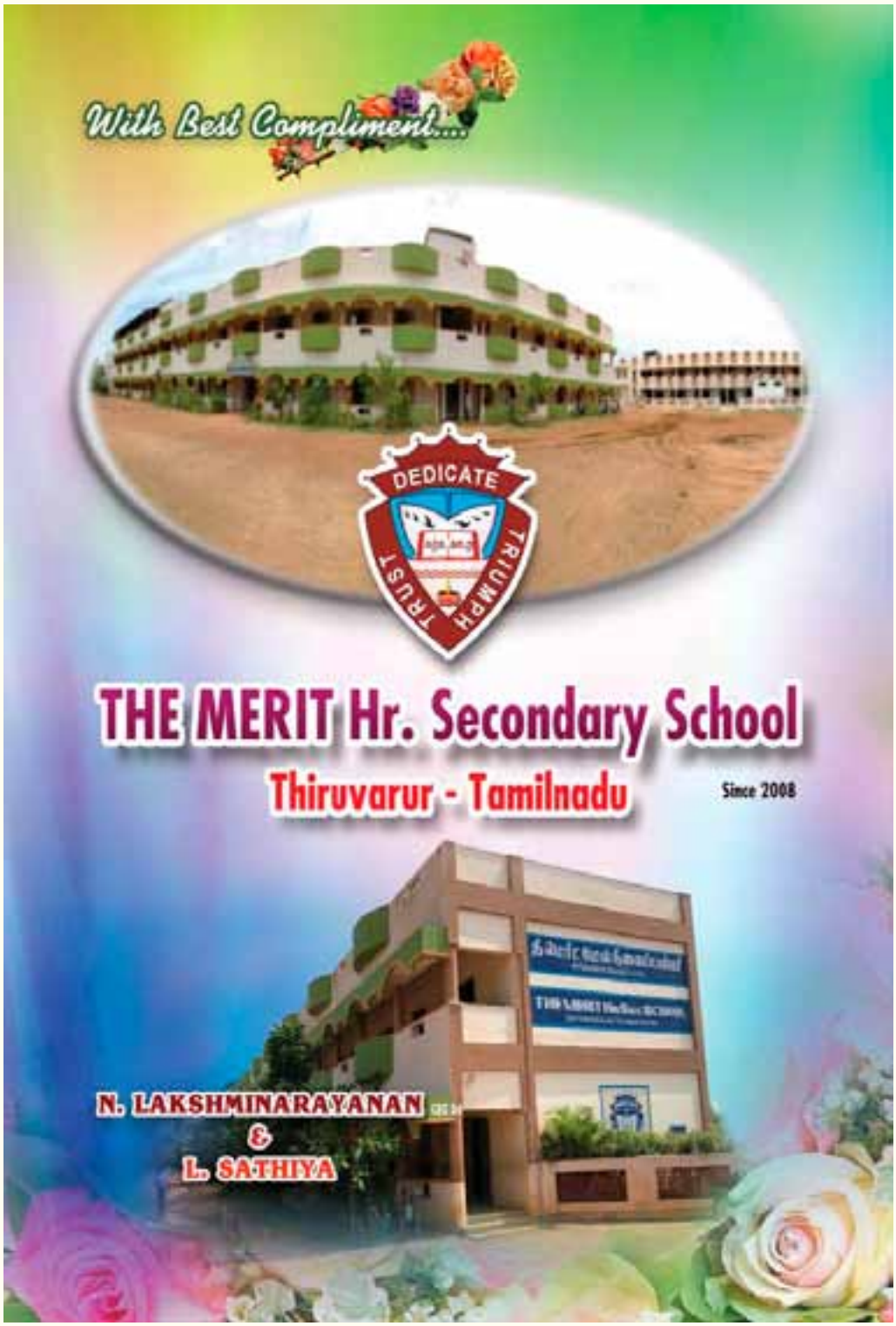
A multifaceted doctor who is also a painter, jewellery maker, polymer clay artist, and an art teacher - all rolled into one.

Dr Tahseen Khan is with Ministry of Health, Kuwait since 1981, currently working as a neonatologist at Jahra Hospital. Painting is a way of decompressing for her from the pressures of intensive care work. She believes; if you have passion, you will always find time. She continued to paint and evolve as an artist for decades silently and unobtrusively until she had her first major exhibition in 2011. Her second solo exhibition titled 'Be the Change' was at Bayt Lothan in 2012 followed by another in 2015.

Born in the southern Indian city of Chennai, Tahseen inherited her artistic sense from her mother. However, like most Indian families, academic pursuits were accorded greater importance, and while building a career in medicine and pediatrics in the late 70s, her creative juices lay dormant. Then slowly Tahseen began exploring her artistic side and started rediscovering a world of colors and textures aided by regular art workshops. The play of colors and light were of great inspiration to her. The spontaneous and intuitive artist in Tahseen expresses her moods not only through paint but also through clay and fiber. Apart from canvas, Tehseen also has an impressive array of polymer clay sculptures, silk paintings and handmade jewellery.

Over the years, she has progressed and become more self-assured, and the themes of her paintings reflect her confidence. With experience and training from master painters like Susan Saraback, her own style has emerged. Most of her works center on rural life in India, highlighting the role played by women. She captured the magic of her childhood moments in the suburbs of Madurai in many of her paintings. Coming from a very conservative background where education for women was frowned upon, she feels truly blessed that her parents provided her with the necessary strength to build a career.

Apart from medicine and art, Tahseen is also actively involved in community work. As Vice President of Indian Women's Association, she was engaged in raising awareness, empowering women with information on treatment and risk factors of different diseases, organizing health camps and workshops and fund-raising for charity. She is a dedicated doctor who has carried out her professional obligations successfully while opening a creative dialogue that transcends culture through her engagement with local artists.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Ananthi Natarajan

Intrinsically, fearless, self-motivated & goal oriented entrepreneur

Always inspired by the success stories around her, Ananthi Natarajan, desired to become an entrepreneur to gather business acumen along with it.

She is Post-Graduated in Economics (M.A). Ananthi, believes in the saying "Success is determined by many factors, some of them are intrinsic, while others are external". She is intrinsically, fearless, self-motivated and goal oriented, which obviously have a multiplier effect on the external factors towards the road to success.

Her leadership qualities coupled with a talent for forging inter-personal relationships earned her a distinctive place in society. Her call for humanity to help the poor and down-trodden around SPIC Nagar, where she stayed for about 12 years, made her President and then Chairperson for Lioness clubs in the whole district. Keeping the balance between charity and socio cultural activities, she held the position of SPIC Nagar Ladies club secretary too.

Moving to Chennai, she established a departmental store "Magna", in a modern format challenging many small time super markets in the area.

Food is another interesting subject for her, which made her take over the running of the canteen attached to her brother's specialty hospital in Chennai, serving people including in-patients.

Landing in Kuwait in 1994, she got associated with various cultural organizations and she headed Kuwait Tamil Sangam for 3 years as President and providing the best cultural engagement to the Tamil community.

She forayed onto the food front with a big jumb by opening up Hotel Saravana Bhavan (HSB) in 2012, a long-awaited boon for indians in Kuwait. Recognizing her business acumen, she was conferred with a Doctorate in Women Empowerment & Entrepreneurship by World Tamil University, USA in 2017.

To continue the success story, she opened its second branch in Lulu Hyper market in Dajeej in 2015 as part of the Food Court there. A third has now started in salmiya.

Happily married to Mr. A.N.Natarajan, who always stands by her and backs up many Tamil Associations in Kuwait. She has a daughter Aarthi Siddharth, who is keen in following her mother's toes that has helped her to become an entrepreneur on a different scale.

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Dr. Susovana Sujit Nair

2019 PBD Award winner, Social Worker, Medical Oncologist

Dr. Susovana was born and brought up in Ranchi. Right from her childhood days, she was inclined to serve the society and was pained by the sorrow of poor people. Her father was her mentor and her source of inspiration. He wanted her to pursue the medical profession, which was in line with her passion of serving the community.

Susovana was state topper in Grade XII and then cleared All India Medical entrance. She completed her Post Graduation in Clinical Oncology from Adyar Cancer Institute. Dr. Susovana joined Kuwait Cancer Control Center in 2010 as Medical Oncologist (Breast Unit).

Apart from her career in the medical field, she is passionate about writing, art and music and had received many awards for her songs and artistic skills while in school. She was awarded the First Prize by the Government of Bihar for her essay on 'Role and importance of Youth towards national integration' on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi during her college days.

Dr. Susovana has been actively involved in medical health camps to screen and educate ladies on the importance of regular check-ups and self-breast examination. Her initiatives in assisting under-privileged patients with their practical needs of finding the right treatment resources is noteworthy. Her involvement with NGO's in India in spreading the word of 'Early detection, Better cure' through various outreach programs is commendable. She has been actively involved with the Indian Doctors Forum, Kuwait.

She is currently the office bearer and the Joint Community Secretary - Community Services for IDF. Dr. Susovana has recently been awarded with PBD award "She - The Change Nari-Udhyami Awards 2019" for her contributions to the society by the Government of India, on 23rd January 2019 at Varanasi, India in presence of the PM and Minister of External Affairs.

She continues her passion of singing and normally ends her cancer talks with a soothing melody. Though weekends are packed with community activities, she loves to spend her free time with her husband and three kids.

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Asha Sharma

Thirst for knowledge made her explore new grounds for enrichment in education

Mrs. Asha Sharma is the Principal of Indian Learners Own Academy, a CBSE school in Kuwait. Asha Sharma has rendered nearly 43 years of service in the field of education as a teacher and administrator. She started her career at Mother's International School, Delhi in 1977 then Delhi Public School Mathura Road for 17 and a half years.

She became the Founder Principal of three schools in Kuwait namely Indian Central School in 1994, where she worked for 12 years, Indian Educational School popularly known as Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan in 2006, and Indian Learners Own Academy in 2010, which is her own school. She has also worked as Visiting Professor at Madurai Kamaraj University for B.Ed. and M.A. Pol. Sc. Courses.

She has double Post graduation degrees in Political Science and History from Delhi University. Her flair for writing took her to a Diploma in Journalism.

She has authored 17 text books and revised a number of books for popular publishers in India. She was the first CBSE Counsellor in Kuwait for board examinees which she carried out from 1998 to 2012. She has organized a number of workshops and training programmes for teachers in Kuwait and the GCC region. She has served as Chairperson of the Gulf Council.

She has written extensively for popular dailies in India like Indian Express, Hindustan Times and penned a regular column on education for "The Times".

Her thirst for knowledge made her explore new grounds for enrichment in education hence she graduated from Principal's Training College (PTC) in 2009 and did curriculum development courses in U.K. and U.S.A. As learning has no terminals, her quest for knowledge is still on. She has a spiritual inclination and likes to expand her knowledge in metaphysical matters. She loves to assist students and teachers in finding the right path in the field of learning. She enjoys music for relaxation.

She was given the Mentor Award by CBSE from the hands of HRD Minister then, Mrs. Smiriti Irani. Being felicitated with the 'National Teachers Award' by the President of India in the year 2007 for her meritorious services in the field of education was a big feather in her cap. She has also received EBA Award- 2017- 'Excellence in Quality' Award at International Conference in UK. On 28th July 2018, she received Dr. A.P. J Abdul Kalam outstanding Principal's Award from Himakshara.

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Anita Khanna Merchant

Strokes of Creativity....Rendezvous with Art

Anita Khanna Merchant was born in Stockholm – Sweden. She lived in Saigon, Rangoon, Bonn, Khartoum, Islamabad and Kuwait. Anita lost her mother at an early age, and grew up with her affectionate father who was a Diplomat. She did her high school in Germany and speaks German. She holds a BSc Degree, an MA in Medical & Psychiatric social work and an MSc in Zoology - she loves animals.

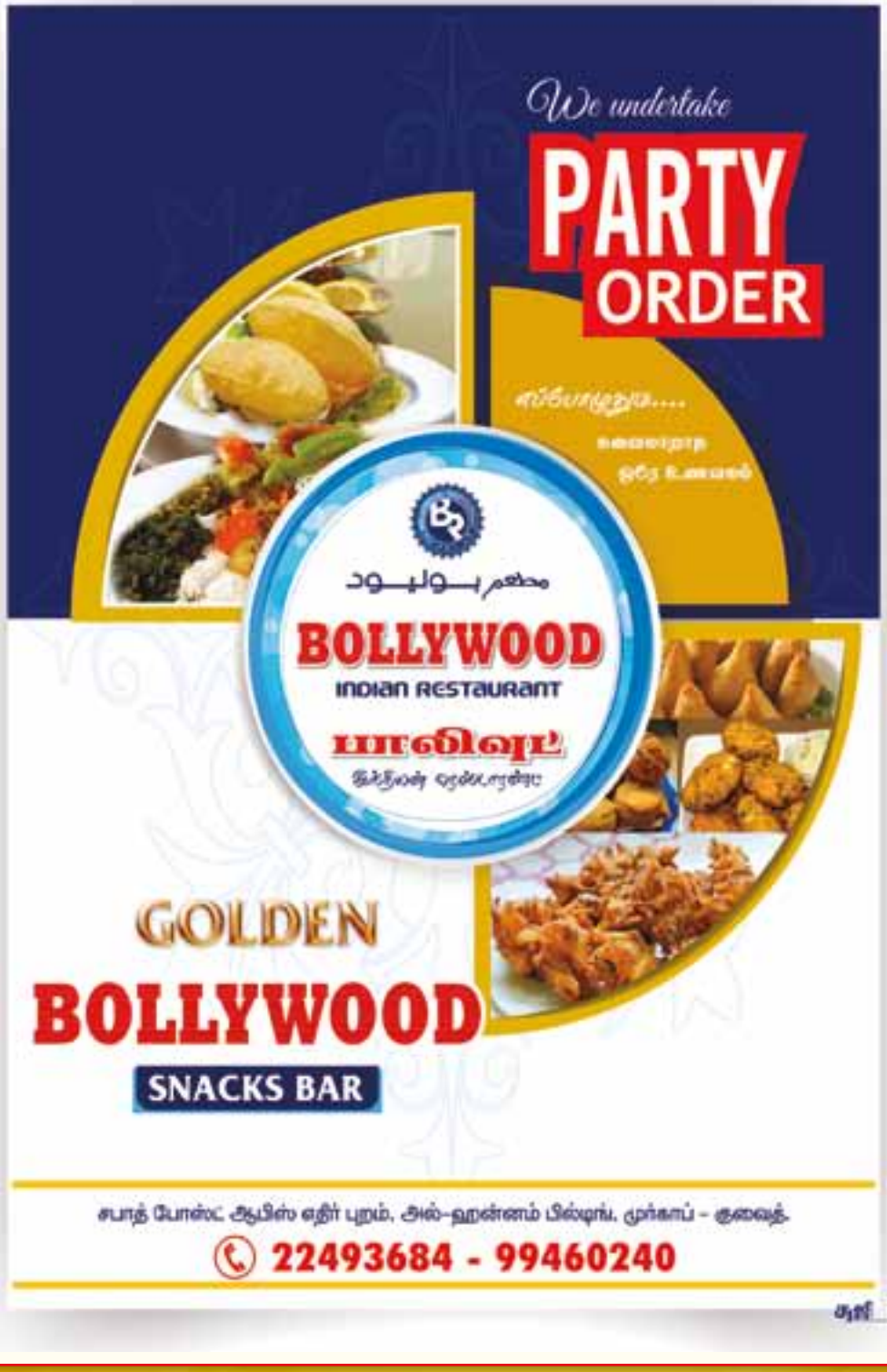
Anita's passion towards painting started at an early age and her interest was cultivated and further developed with motivation from her poetic father. His writings on her painting inspired her to reach great heights.

With a strong blend of Indian culture and a ravishing western style, her themes reveal her own cultural pride and her cosmic vision – a highlight of all her exhibitions. Bold concepts and colors convey a strong message and stimulate the mind. Her expertise includes a variety of mediums such as Silk, Canvas, Glass, Wood, Hardboard, Silver and 24 carat gold leaf, oil, water, charcoal and acrylic colours. Anita's work has been exhibited widely since her childhood in Sudan, Sweden and later in Kuwait.

In 1975 she was the First Indian artist to hold an exhibition in Kuwait which was organized by the National Council of Culture, Arts and Literature. The exhibition was inaugurated by Special Adviser Sheikh Abdulla Al Jaber to his Highness the Amir. Her paintings on the Moon, Mermaid, Krishna, Buddha, Dancers, Festival etc, are exotic and she has no inhibition in displaying Arabic Culture as well. Her painting adorn the walls of Air India office in Kuwait and many homes and offices all over the world.

She feels that through her vision the artistic exchange between the universe and the artist opens up many new ideas and interpretations. Anita cherishes the connection with nature which is constantly displayed in her painting. Married to Mr. Mohammed Merchant she is blessed with two daughters. "I am fascinated by the four men in my life: Lord Krishna, Buddha, Lord Shiva and my beloved husband" she says.

She also designs sterling silver jewelry and artefacts. She has had many silver exhibitions. Every square of her lovely house is adorned with sculptures, bronzes, wooden carvings and her beautiful paintings. To her, art is like meditation and her paintings are definitely an inspiration to all aspiring artists.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Maimuna Ali Chougle

Urdu Writer & Critic of International Renown

Maimuna Ali Chougle, the current President of Writers Forum Kuwait, she started writing and publishing at the age of ten.

Her first article was printed in the school magazine. At the age 14, her article Aman Ka Farishta on the death of Shastriji was published in The Urdu Times. While in college Maimuna won the prizes for essay writing twice. A shield with her name inscribed still remains in Maharashtra College Mumbai. All these with little support from her family.

Marriage brought her from the busy streets of Mumbai to the dusty desert of Kuwait. The challenges of a new country and raising children did not deter her from her passion for reading and writing. In Kuwait in the early seventies, with difficult access to books and literary material, Maimuna looked after her family in the day but spent her evenings reading until the early hours of dawn. Her only request to friends and family is "bring me books". In 1980 she started publishing in the Urdu section of Arab Times. These articles later took shape of her first book in 2003, Kuch Zikr Kuch Fikr.

A feminist before feminism became fashionable; she raised her two daughters to be independent women and both are surgeons. Her daughter-in-law is a successful business woman. Even her earliest writings advocated social change.

Maimuna went on to publish several more books with the latest one being released in 2017. Her book "Fikr O Nazar"published in 2010 received Govt. Recognition and several copies were purchased by the National Council for promotion of Urdu Language.

Maimuna is currently the President of Writers Forum Kuwait. During her two terms she has steered the forum to achieve recognition and made platform for writers and litterateurs from all Indian languages. In 2014, she organized an International Urdu Seminar and Mushaira with scholars from Mumbai, London and Qatar.

She was interviewed on UK television in 2007. Maimuna received an award in recognition of her work from London Borough of Haringey in the same year. She was bestowed with an Honorary D.Lit. by the North West University, London in 2017. In 2018 she was awarded in recognition of her contribution to Urdu Literature by Jogalekar College, Maharastra, India.

Besides her writing, Maimuna likes music and art. She loves to travel and meet inspiring people to learn from their experiences. As a child, Maimoona had told her mother "I am going to be known", and that prophecy has certainly come true.

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Dr. Shantha Maria James

- A Charismatic Personality believing in Woman Empowerment

As a Principal, Social Worker, Chairman of a School, former Chairperson of CBSE Schools in the Gulf, Dr. Shantha Maria James, is a charismatic personality who evinced that willpower, determination and dreams can make a woman "A woman of Puissance".

According to her, "Life is not about finding yourself. It is all about creating yourself." She says that her journey through life has been full of great roller coaster adventures, where she enjoyed the challenges and gathered strength from her struggles and mistakes.

Her career began as a humble kindergarten teacher in India and reached its pinnacle by winning the National Award from the President of India, H. E. Pranab Mukerjee in the field of Education in 2013.

Shantha Maria, the Principal of Indian Central School, Kuwait, is an ideal illustration of woman empowerment and an icon for women who aspire to be in the forefront.

Breaking the mould of limitations she has shown the world that woman is "Shakthi" if they have the certitude and are willing exert. Education is the key that she took support on her stride in life with die-hard fortitude and valour.

Her zest for knowledge resulted in mustering Masters and M.Phil in English and Ph.D.in Educational Leadership. She has undergone training in India, U.K., USA, Finland and Australia.

Her hands reach out through Samaritan activities ranging from Organ Donations Campaigns, 'Beat diabeties Drive', 'Breast Cancer Campaigns' etc. The project that is close to her heart is "SUPPORT TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS" children both in India and in Kuwait.

Her knowledge of different subjects and exuberant power of coordination and motivation has made her a resource person who shuttles around the globe conducting workshops and seminars. Her belief in leading and creating leaders motivated her to open two Toastmaster clubs and two Gavel clubs in Kuwait.

It is her inherent talent that has resulted in her programs being telecasted on Doordharshan, private channels in India, Kuwait Radio, Kuwait TV Channel 2, newspapers, and magazines in Kuwait and India. She has penned study material in English, Social Studies workbooks, GK and Kindergarten books.

Her Success is attributed to her close knit family. Such an inspiring woman among the expats of Kuwait is really a pride of Indians in Kuwait.

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Anju Dheman

A Great Educationalist and a women of substance

"Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think…to prepare one's self for diverse challenges of life"

A perfectionist, a great scholar, a woman of substance, Mrs. Anju Dheman, Principal of Fahaheel Al-Watanieh Indian Private School (FAIPS) is a role model for millions of hearts!

She has been a teacher par excellence and climbed the proverbial ladder with utmost sincerity and dedication. Mrs.Dheman has given wings to the FAIPS community to reach for the sky, with her tireless endeavour, FAIPS-DPS has come a long way since she took its reins.

"Building a school is not about bricks, it's about building strengths" - Under her able guidance, the school touched new heights of success and established itself as the premier high school in Kuwait. She attributes this success to the teachers and students who have "taken the institution forward".

FAIPS is providing a curriculum of practical and vocational learning alongside theoretical study. "The aim is to equip the children with the skills and values that will shape them into proactive and productive adults, by providing a positive direction and holistic education". She walks that extra mile with the children, for the children, for attaining that goal.

Profound in her philosophy and modern in her thinking, she balances tradition with modernity. For her, Education goes beyond classroom and goes beyond text books. She says, "A degree or education is not an end, it's an on-going process", "Never stop learning because life never stops teaching"!

And in her teachers, the qualities she looks for are open-mindedness and the willingness to learn. She says, "Times always change… If we don't change, we would stagnate and worse for human being is a stagnated mind."

According to her, art, music, dance, sports and other cultural activities form an integral part of education. As a true practitioner, she seeks to ensure that the class room is oriented towards meeting the individual's needs and in ensuring Total Quality Management in education.

She has successfully attempted to shape the vision of academic success for all students. She has motivated and guided teachers to teach their best and students to learn to their utmost. As a leader and a mentor, she sets an example for others to emulate!

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Chaitali B Roy

First Indian Woman to receive the "Women of Kuwait" award

Chaitali Banerjee Roy has been in print media and radio broadcasting in Kuwait and India for twenty years. A multifaceted personality, she is an author, journalist and cultural event curator.

She began her career with HMV, a leading entertainment company in India where she specialized in radio production, and also worked as a voice artist. Since 2001, Chaitali is professionally associated with Kuwaiti media both as Special Correspondent to Arab Times, Kuwait's premier English-language daily and as Producer/ Editor in the state-owned Radio Kuwait Foreign Service.

Chaitali has a Master's degree in English from the University of Calcutta and Postgraduate Diplomas in Journalism, Public Relations, and Management. Awarded a Fellowship, she represented Kuwait at a Senior Journalist Seminar organized by East-West Center, an internationally recognized organization under the US State Department to foster better understanding between the United States and countries with major Muslim populations.

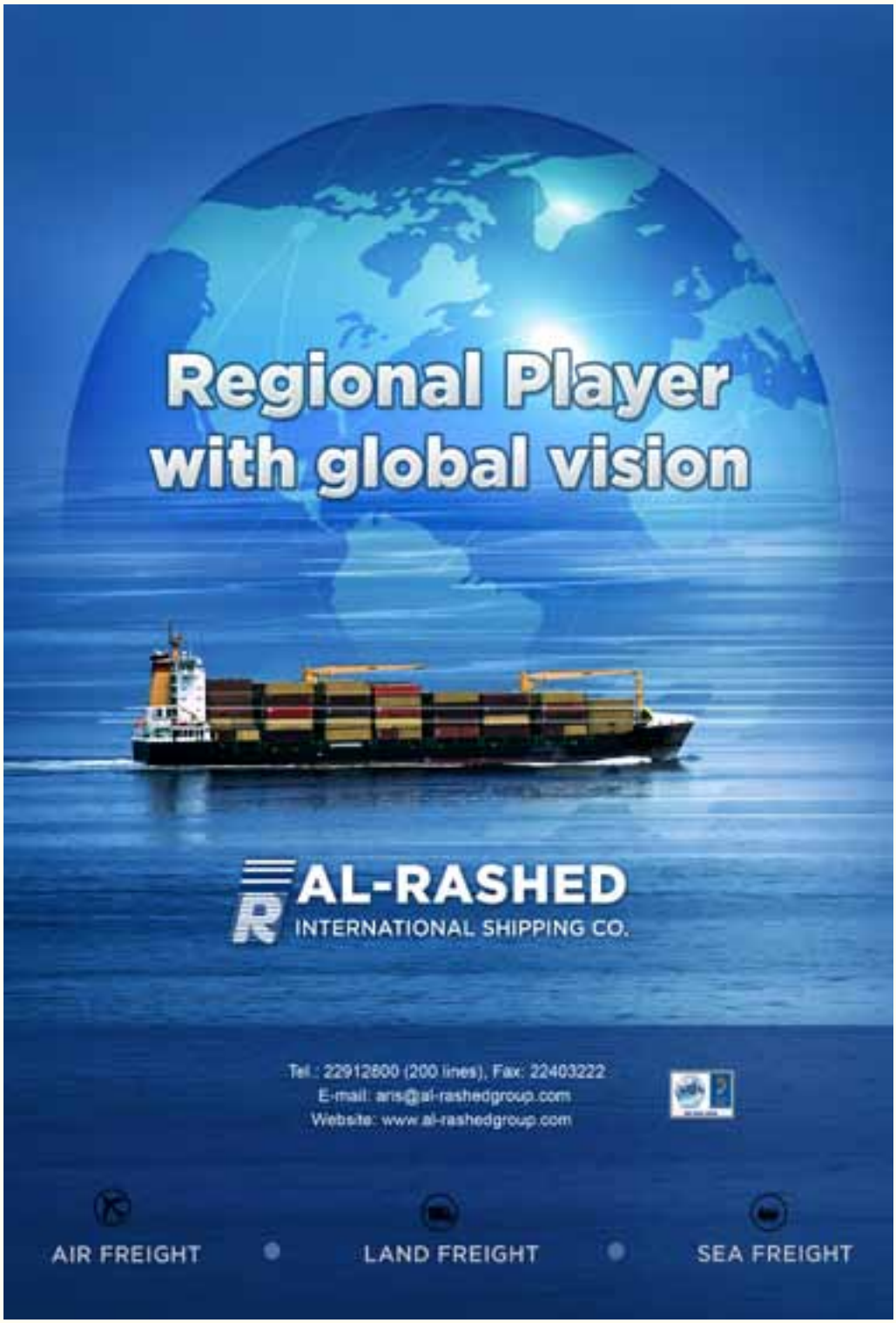
Passionate about advocating multiculturalism, Chaitali has tried to find connections between cultures by actively promoting, organizing, and anchoring cultural events on well-known platforms. She has curated cultural events and talks for various embassies and organizations in Kuwait. In her spare time, Chaitali takes a lively interest in amateur theatre and music.

While writing about extraordinary women in Kuwait, she found that many of the challenges they face are global in nature while other dilemmas are posed by cultural conservatism. The stories put together in her first book 'Women of Kuwait: Turning Tides' are a must-read.

Chaitali's book, which is sold in Kuwait, India, United States and Canada has been included in the Stanford University and Princeton University Library catalogues. She has been invited to lecture on Kuwaiti culture at different universities and by various organizations including Jawaharlal Nehru University (Delhi), Lady Brabourne College (Calcutta), ICCR (Calcutta), British Ladies Society (Kuwait), American Women's League Kuwait, German Speaking Ladies, Kuwait , Agility and Boxhill College, Kuwait. In May 2017, she became the first Indian woman to be awarded by the Indian Business & Professional Council for outstanding leadership in developing and enhancing social and cultural relationships between Kuwait and India.

Chaitali is currently working on her second book due to be published by the end of 2019. She is also working on a podcast series titled 'At My Kuwaiti Table' with Dr Lavinia Davenport, wife of the British Ambassador (a filmmaker and youtuber) and Krysia Derecki, wife of the Australian Ambassador (former media professional with the BBC).

"Every person you meet and every experience you undergo teaches you something however small," she says.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Madhulika Mohta

"Miles to go before I sleep"

Madhulika is a woman of many parts but her friends and call her an energy bomb. "I come from a very conservative Marwari family." It was a 15 year struggle which saw her finishing her MBA in Finance. She also finished a 3 year Honors Diploma in Software Engineering & e-Commerce AND set up here first business at the age of 19 manufacturing lingerie.

She joined the world's largest Management Consultancy firm PricewaterHouseCoopers as a campus re-cruit but left to set up Learning Spiral which is India's first e-enabled application processing service provider to education institutions. The company today has over 100 employees. Featured by leading Indian news-papers and magazines as a successful youth entrepreneur, she was selected as part of the Indian contin-gent to the United Nations Youth forum in Portugal.

In 2001, she got married and moved to Oman, soon heading BDO's Management Consultancy division. While in Muscat, she again co-founded Vision Consultancy which specialized in Market research assign-ments.

Madhulika is a writer and orator. She did a stint as a child voice artist for All India Radio and acted in several stage productions while in India. She had her own column in The Week, Oman and was editor/ senior writer for a number of publications in Oman. She also served as a member of the jury for Oman Web Awards.

She has written poetry since she was 8 and her first collection of poems in Hindi 'Nazar Andaz' was re-leased at the Valley of Words Literature Festival, India in 2017. Her second book : The Magician's Rabbit is slated for release in 2019. She is a member of the Writers Forum of Kuwait and a member of the Education Guidance Committee of IBPC.

Madhulika has always had a deep connection with social causes and has been associated with The Indus Entrepreneurs, Calcutta chapter and Rotary Oman. Deeply concerned with hardships of arid environments, she Co-authored and presented a paper on Water Demand Management at UNESCO conference in 2007. She loves dancing and cooking and also devotes time to a school for the underprivileged differently abled children in Kuwait as well as to a weekly cultural education class. She runs workshops on Creative Writing, Public Speaking and Etiquette for children in Kuwait. She loves traveling and has trekked the higher Hima-layas and is also a licensed Scuba diver.

Madhulika quotes Frost when asked about her future endeavors "But I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep...."

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Dr. Pooja Chodankar

An E.N.T. Surgeon involved in cultural & community services.

Dr. Pooja Chodankar, E.N.T. Surgeon at Zain & Amiri Hospital has been working in Kuwait for the past decade and has been actively involved in cultural & social work and community service. She has been a member of the Indian Doctors Forum (I.D.F.) since its inception and has also been its Cultural Secretary.

She has participated in various counseling platforms in educating the masses on how to be a strong mother while dealing with an Autistic child. Shuttling between a hectic schedule of duties and emergencies & home chores, she manages to find time to be an ideal mother while dealing with her three sons, the eldest being in XII standard.

Born and brought up in New Delhi, India, she moved to the United States. She returned to complete her high school from New Delhi. After completing her high school, she developed a passion for serving the needy and felt that this dream could only be translated by becoming a Doctor. She then left for J.N.Mecial College, Belgaum and pursued her Undergraduate and Post Graduate studies to become a full-fledged E.N.T. Surgeon.

Marriage to Dr. Jaganath R C in the year 2000, brought her to Kuwait and decided to dedicate the first few years in settling down.

During the first few years in Kuwait, she was closely associated with Indian Women's Association (I.W.A.) and C.L.U.B. 9, wherein she uncovered the joys of dealing with special children, providing care unconditionally and serving the deserving.

Just about then, she realized that one of her children too was Autistic. Maybe GOD realized that she had what it takes to nurture and bring up an autistic child successfully, with the gifted talent of tons of patience and showers of love. She now participates whole-heartedly in various counselling and autistic research.

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Padmavathy Senthil Kumar

Businesswoman & Philanthropist

Jhansi Ki Rani to Padmavathy, Indian women have always stood up for their ambitions. Padma feels all women are achievers! One of 6 sisters in the family, her father treated her like a boy and perhaps that was the secret to her confidence.

"When I was studying in the 8th standard, I was taking Maths for the class as there was no Maths teacher in that panchayat school", recollects Padma. Even as a child she was advising her father on what crops to grow for more money.

After completing her computer engineering degree, she started her own computer centre doing small projects for the State Bank of India. Soon she also donned the mantle of the family business. Running an Indane Gas Dealership was a unique experience and her enthusiasm and hard work got the Best Woman Dealer Award for reaching 5000 customers within 4-5 months!

Padma was instrumental in developing Raghavendra Matriculation School, established in 1989. It is a rural school situated 45 Kilometres North of Trichy. The school's philosophy is to provide "Skills for Life" and motivate children to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour, through XSEED methodology of teaching.

The school has done commendable work in uplifting the rural students of Tamil Nadu, by inculcating moral and cultural values while imparting quality education & providing skills for financial independence. Recently the school got a State Level Award.

The school is reaching its 30th anniversary in 2019. Padma manages and mentors the development of the school from Canada where she is now permanently settled.

She has always believed in serving mankind and has adopted 2 children from Africa. She now wishes to spend some time with Ngnire (8 years) of Kofan community from Mali, and Rigbe (10 Years) of Laelay Maychew community from Ethiopia.

For Padmavathy, her method for success is simple - Think BIG always and never give up.

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Jyoti Patel

Dance for Passion, Passion for Dance

Renowned for her Odissi dancing style, Jyoti Patel is an eminent Indian Classical dancer in Kuwait. Turning a childhood passion into a career, she started her own dance school "The Dancing Divas" in 2002. "Dancing makes one confident and develops courage to face the world with a smile." she says.

Before forming her dance academy, she actively participated in Odisha Association and Gujrati Association Samarpan. She started her dance school with two students and now she is a proud teacher for more than 1000 students. She believes dance removes all negative energies accumulated in our body and it helps to energize and rejuvenate the mind.

Being trained in different forms of dance forms like Salsa, Hip Hop, Odissi, Folk and Belly dancing, she thought of fusing and harmonizing different forms and creating something different and pass it on to the next generation. Jyoti is one of the popular dance teachers to judge many dance competitions all over the Kuwait.

Jyoti has not limited herself teaching dance to kids but is conducting fitness classes for women too. Jyoti owns a company "Fitness Plus". In addition, she is one of the successful organizers of Bollywood events, dance competitions, carnivals etc., in Kuwait.

Jyoti is a great admirer of Meena Kumari as well as Saroj Khan and Madhuri Dixit and considers them as her role models. She has rightfully bagged the "Sangeet Ratna" award for Odissi dance.

"Behind every man's success, there is a "woman "However Jyoti says behind every successful woman, there is a man too. Her husband is a driving force behind all her achievements.

Jyoti strongly believes dedication and complete focus on the work in hand leads to success. Connection towards eternal entity is essential before beginning any work as it gives power to perform actions effectively.

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Sherly Dennis

A Talented and Socially Committed Professional

Sherly Dennis is highly talented and a socially committed professional. She holds Masters Degree in Economics, English and Education.

Sherly Dennis has been involved in education for over 30 years and is a veteran of several elite positions in different parts of India. She was an administrator for two years, in an ICSE School in Gujarat. It was a luminous accomplishment in her career that she could successfully complete an action research on "Problems faced by English Medium Students belonging to different socio cultural ethnic groups".

She served as a Member of the Board of Directors of YMCA Gujarat and later as its Secretary and then as the Vice-President. She also contributed her skills to the St. Joseph's Hospital in Gujarat as a member of the advisory body. She has vast experience in working with many NGOs. She is the National animator for Knit India Programme, an organization for value education for peace.

Sherly has completed 10 years of service in Kuwait and presently serves Indian Community School as its Principal. Sherly provides leadership, effective direction and coordination both in academics and in extra-curricular activities. Her strength is her passion and dedication. Her expertise incorporates extraordinary inter personal relationships with her students, parents and team members. She has attended various workshops and is also capable of conducting innovative programs. She creates a climate, which fosters the growth of students as well as teachers.

Sherly Dennis is also a good trainer and she conducts training for her staff to remain positive and dynamic in teaching learning process. Sherly is a very visible educator and she states that the best part of her job is visiting the students in all areas of the school. She believes that every student should get an opportunity to speak in front of the crowd that will help them build their confidence levels.

Sherly is blessed to have a happy family which is the main support for all her endeavors. Her husband, Mr.John Alexander is a shipping professional in Kuwait. Two Sons, Mr. Nithin Alex John and Mr. Saayooj Dennis John, are post graduate engineers and a daughter, Dr. Godly Sara Sabu is currently doing her post graduate studies.

Her motto is "Stay positive, maintain communication, and do the right thing."

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Jisha Subin Jagdish

Passionate Anchor, Model, Short Film Director, Journalist, Writer...

Born and brought up in the land of looms and lores - Kannur, Kerala with parents, Chandrasekharan an Ex Service Man and Savithri a home maker. She has two elder brothers, Dr. Rajaneesh and Dr.Jithesh. Got married in 2003 to Subin Jagdish, employed in the world of Automotive. Blessed to have a 10-year-old daughter Kaashvi.

Jisha completed Masters in Anthropology from Kannur University in 2004 with University First Rank and Gold Medal. Moved to Kuwait soon after completing her Masters and began her career at Kuwait University as Research Assistant. During her stint with Kuwait University she started contributing for international Journals an activity which she continues till date. She also published an article, 'Marriage: An Integrated Study in the Context of Cultural Variation' in Digest of Middle East. After about a year with Kuwait University moved to a private Marketing Research Consultancy firm and worked as a Researcher for 3 years. She simultaneously went on to do her PG Diploma in Business Administration. She is presently with Independent Petroleum Group over the last 10 years as Marketing Operations Analyst.

She was very active in co-scholastic activities since her school days while maintaining a high scholastic skill. She was awarded with "Kalathilakam" title in Sanskritolsav while in 10th std. Actively participated in University Art Festivals conducted by Kannur University and was regular winner for 5 consecutive years in Photography, Elocution, Poetry, Essay Etc. during 1999 to 2004.

There was no change in her attitude after starting her career as well. She is a passionate artist who has anchored a number of stage-shows with celebrity artists from India, anchored about 35 Episodes of a popular TV show "Times of Kuwait" broadcasted in Asianet News channel, and hosted many interviews for various productions. Was advertisement model for popular companies such as Al Muzzaini Exchange, Dar Al Saha Policlinic etc. Her footsteps into Short Films include Story, Screen Play, Lyrics and Direction. She is a regular contributor for Indians in Kuwait (IIK). She is affiliated with many associations and schools as part of Judging panel for cultural shows.

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Malini Viswanath

Musician, Performer, Organizer, Writer and a Guru

An acclaimed practitioner of Carnatic classical music, Malini Viswanath believes her Masters in Engineering has shaped her ideas as a Musician, Performer and a Guru.

Having trained in the Carnatic classical music style under legends like Darpana Academy of Mrinalini Sarabhai and and Smt Radha Viswanath (daughter of Bharat Ratna M S Subbulakshmi); Malini founded Raag`N' Rhythm in Kuwait in 2000. Today her shishyas (students) are spread across England, Scotland, France, USA, Australia, India and the Middle East and continue to propagate the divine art.

In 2011, Malini had choreographed `Harmony' on the occasion of Kuwait's 50 years of independence and 20 years of liberation and had the privilege of performing with the Kuwait state artist Mr. Abdul Aziz at Kuwait's epicenter of culture - the prestigious Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. `Anwesha' was choreographed by Malini for Dar's music season in 2015, which was in collaboration with Marius Rusanu, the Romanian clarinetist. Malini has also recorded `Skandagiri Paamaalai' an album on her pujya guru's works and `Music is Universal' essaying Carnatic ragas and emotions for an international audience as part of the Al Sabah Collection, Dar - al Athar al - Islamiyyah, Kuwait.

Raag`N' Rhythm has always spearheaded the cause of universality of music, through regular workshops and concerts with living legends like Grammy Awardee Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Pandit Ronu Majumdar, Oscar Award Nominee Bombay Jayashri while bringing to audiences the treasure trove of the trinity of Carnatic music. On the occasion of International Museum Day, 2016, students of Raag`N' Rhythm had the rare opportunity to jam up with George Ramirez, the Spanish multi-vocalist.

Her outreach program for specially-abled children focuses on the therapeutic aspects of Carnatic music and has broken new ground. She continues to write on the Joy of Giving through the arts.

With the publication of `Sri Thyagaraja Vaibhavam'(a biopic on the great Poet Composer Sri Thyagaraja) in four languages, Malini and her students at Raag`N' Rhythm continue to enhance the reach of this ancient Indian classical art form to the next generation.

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S. Sindhu Ramesh

An accomplished and talented singer

Sindhu Ramesh started learning Carnatic music at age six under Mr. Rajan Lal (uncle of music director Shareth). She also stepped into the world of stage performances with a light music competition and secured first place. She did her Arangetram at age 10. She started singing for Ganamela with Mr. Idava Basheer and became an All India Radio artist while in 5th standard. She continued her music training under legends such as Guru Venkatachalam.

A regular singer for three troupes "Singing Birds", "Sithara" and "Voice of Youth" during her school days; she performed more than 2000 shows in Kerala and Tamil Nadu and sang with famous playback singers like K.G. Marcose, P.Jayachandran, Unnimenon, Venugopal, M.G. Sreekumar. Sreekanth, and Pandalam Balan. She also debuted with the Malayalam Movie "VelichamillathaVeedu".

During college, she got an opportunity to sing with Dr. K.J. Yesudas and toured the globe with him for many years. Her first visit to Kuwait was in 1988 with Dr. K J Yesudas. She has a versatile voice and has contrib-uted many memorable songs to Malayalam movies. She was bestowed with the Cine Critic Award for Best Singer in the year 1988.

She moved to Chennai in 1992 and became an A Grade Artist in All India Radio and the same year made her entry into Tamil cinema. She was a member of Laxman Sruthy and Gangai Amaran Orchestra which gave her an opportunity to sing with Legends like T.M. Soundararajan, Gangai Amaran, S.P. Bala subramaniyam, Mano, Deepan Chakravathy, S.N. Surendar, and Malasiya Vasudevan. In 1999, she received Kerala Television Drama Best Singer Award. Sindhu also lent her voice for many Telugu movies as well as a song in Kannada and one for a Hindi film.

She got married to S.V. Ramesh in 1998 and moved to Kuwait in 2002. In 2004, Sindhu set up her music institution "Sree Hari School of Music". She is a Patron of Bharatheeya Sangeetha Sabha and Advisory Board Member of Kuwait Indian Singers Welfare Association. She is also a faculty in Music at ICSK. She received the "Gana Sudha" for Classical Vocal by SABHA, Kuwait in 2014 and was honored at Puraskara Sandhya by KT Muhammad Paddanavedi, Kuwait in 2016. In 2018, she received the "Nadasree Puraskaram" by Ragamaliga, Kuwait.

She has more than 525 songs to her credit for Indian Cinema and over 2000 songs for Devotional and mu-sic albums in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and Baduga (Tribal language of Ootty) and the nightingale is still going strong.

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Moli Vijaya Divakaran

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Moli Divakaran is an accomplished Canadian trained Educator specialized in imparting result-oriented approach to learning and teaching. With nearly 25 years of teaching children, adults and special needs persons, Mrs. Divakaran has extensive experience and a proven track record in design, development, and delivery of flexible learning and teaching solutions to institutions, corporate, and NGOs. With a Masters in English Language & Literature and Bachelors in Methods of Teaching, her passion to address real learning issues in students took her to Canada to become a certified Orton Gillingham Therapeutic Teacher Trainer.

Mrs. Divakaran firmly believes that knowledge is judged worthy to the degree only if it can be applied to immediate challenges to make this a better world. Bringing people together for a greater good has been her focus in all the roles she has performed; be it the Deputy Head of the Department, Academic Advisor, Lecturer, or a Researcher. At present she is a Lecturer at the Box Hill College, Kuwait.

Her Guru Maa Amritanadmayi has been an inspiration for her. A compassionate attitude in Moli has seen the birth of two humanitarian projects; Amrita SPARSH (Special Needs Awareness Reach out to Support and Heal) and Amrita HASTH (Humanitarian Activity Supporting the Homeless). Her research on Environment has won her two handsome grants from Kuwait Finance house and an opportunity to speak at a research convention in Japan at the Ryukoku University.

She was a Speaker at the International Education Summit in Delhi, and at various conferences in the Gulf and Canada. Her much sought after workshop on Awareness against child abuse crossed more than 10,000 benefactors and was recently showcased at the 2018 International Youth Summit, Kerala.

With profound love and support from her husband Mr. Divakaran who is an IT strategist and her two sons Suraj and Shivjith, Mrs. Divakaran goes about adding value and meaning to peoples lives through all her endeavors.

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Gayatri Ravindran

Teacher-Trainer- Toastmaster

Mrs. Gayatri Ravindran believes that if someone can create a child's future – it is the teacher. With more than 25 years of varied experience in education, she has seen the movement from chalk to smart boards and the infinite world of the internet.

Born to a middle class family with love for music and dance, she completed her schooling in Jammu and Bachelor in English with Honors in History, in the scenic hills of Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

Starting her teaching career in LKG, she found that her love for art, craft, dance and drama was the perfect combination to be a good teacher. Her interest in helping her students to learn in the way they found comfortable, helped her to practice differentiated instruction in education way back in 2001.

In 2008, she came to Kuwait as the Vice Principal of ICSK Amman Branch. In 2012, she became the Principal in Charge of ICSK Junior Branch. In 2014, she moved to a bilingual school as Curriculum Coordinator.

She loves to interact with youngsters and has great confidence in their capabilities. She looks for opportunities to impact skills in communication and leadership they need in today's competitive world.

In 2016, she joined Toastmasters, a non -profit organization that helps people all over the world to improve their communication and leadership skills. She has participated in there contests and has won many prizes.

Gayatri feels that her family is the rock on which her life is built. She is proud of her two daughters and son, and is deeply indebted to her husband who has stood with her all through the ups and downs of life. Her dream is to start a school for children with learning difficulties in her hometown Chennai.

Swami Vivekananda's quote, "All power is within you – you can do anything and everything" – has been her positive mantra and her belief in the power of self-confidence and strong work ethics - is the basis of her success.

RJ Rachana

Her mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive

Packed with energy and happiness, her smile and interaction can erase all chaos. She can have a conversation with anyone about anything under the sun and beyond. This grounded soul believes in a spiritual power that exists to guide us. Music flows in her veins and she loves to doodle random thoughts.

Hailing from Surat, Gujarat, she was the Best Student of Year for class 12 and is a Nutritionist with specialization in Food Science and Nutrition.

Being a distinction holder in Montessori training she started her career with Carmel School, Kuwait & has an experience of 15+ years in the education field in the Gulf. She has received many certifications and awards and published books for The Indian Community School Kuwait – Junior Department.

She is the first Hindi RJ who has endeared her ardent fans of radio FM in Kuwait as "Rocking Rachana". She pioneered the Hindi segment of the channel 98.4 U FM and drew thousands of listeners to the radio with her enchanting voice, diction, resourcefulness, humor and spontaneity.

Rachana, a master anchor who has an extraordinary gift of the gab, can transform any occasion into an unforgettable life experience. Let it be a Corporate Event, Brand Launch, Live Concert, an award ceremony or a casual party - she adds a dash of color and unbridled mirth. Her warm and friendly tone mixed with lively chitchat keeps audience spell bound.

She has done live shows with celebrities like Kanika Kapoor, Amardeep Singh Natt, Benny Dayal, Salman Yousef Khan, Shakti Mohan, Gutthi and Dadi of Kapil Sharma fame, Mubarak Al Raseed, Ishq Bector, Sanam Johar, Toshi Sabri, Ashwariya Nigam, Fazal Khan and more. She has also done voice overs for various supermarkets in Kuwait.

Rachana is at present working at KDD leading the visit department and giving a memorable Food & Dairy Products manufacturing experience to thousands of visitors from all walks of life every year. She loves badminton and swimming and recently won the women's tournament for badminton held at KDD Sports Day 2019.

She believes that "Either you do things with passion or you don't do them at all".

Jyostna Kishore

First Woman President of Telugu Kala Samithi & coordinator for APNRT

Telugu Kala Samithi is a non-profit organization for the Telugu Community in Kuwait mainly focuses on bringing unity among Telugu speaking people and involveing them effectively through cultural & social welfare activities.

The association was formed three decades ago and run entirely by men. In 2010, Jyostna Kishore, an enthusiastic and energetic woman assumed the charge as the FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT of Telugu Kala Samithi.

As President, her main aim was to empower women by encouraging them to exhibit their hidden talents to this world in her tenure.

Jyostna ensured that the Telugu speaking people do not lose their cultural heritage by being away from their hometown. The rich legacy of art, music, dance and drama is being carried forward by conducting a variety of cultural and welfare programs in the Telugu Kala Samithi.

Being sincere, active and committed to her work, she was elected unanimously again as the president for the second time. To further add to her dedication, Andhra Pradesh Government nominated Jyostna as a coordinator from Kuwait to APNRT (Andhrapradesh Non Resident Telugu).

Jyostna, born and brought up at Eluru in West Godavari district, Andhrapradesh; got married to Mr. Kishore kumar, who is the strength for all her activities and they are blessed with a son Preetham.

From her childhood, she was fond of South Indian culture and helping the poor. She has participated in panel discussions on Television & Radio. She loves animals and birds and is interested in sports & painting.

Chhaya Thakkar

Art and Craft Fashionista & Passionate cook

"If we are mentally strong enough to pursue our dreams, no physical boundaries can stop us".

Born in a small town in Gujarat, Chhaya had a difficult childhood, but she managed to finish her graduation despite all the difficulties. She is an expert in cooking which includes fruit and vegetable carving as well. She has a great eye for fashion and loves involving herself in creating new things.

She has won several awards in creative decoration and culinary competitions in Kuwait. She won the best-dressed award in a fashion show organized by Trissur Association, Kuwait.

She has judged many competitions in the area of her expertise, some of them being WOW entrepreneur Farali Thali Competition, Mithai Competition by Style Inn, Dance Competition at Gulf Indian School, Maurya Kala Parishad, 5th Ethnic Food Festival, Al-Mulla Rangoli Competition. She runs a small catering business of her own.

She was invited for the Rasoi Show by Zee Colors Gujarati TV. She was even a part of the team, which entered the GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS for making the world's largest blanket. She is a member of the Writers' Forum Kuwait and Indian community school charity committee 2017/18. Currently, Chhaya is an executive committee member of Gujarathi Association "SAMARPAN".

She loves the quote:
"I did not lose myself all at once. I rubbed out my face over the years washing away my pain, the same way carvings on stone are worn down by water" - Amy Tan

Sunanda Rajeev

"Fashion speaks about you"

Sunanda Rajeev is a malayali by origin, born and raised in Hyderabad and latter moved to the US where she thrived in the glitz and glam of New York. She completed her MBA in Business management from the Illinois University of Chicago. She worked in the business industry right out of university following which she met the man of her dreams, Rajeev Menon and moved to Kuwait in 2011.

She started working with LIWA Trading (fashion apparel company), then with Logicom (software developers), and later as the Administrative Manager for Movenpick Hotels. She finally resigned to pursue her dreams in the fashion industry in 2014.

She went on to establish her dream brand 'STYLE INN', for her personalized boutique in Salmiya-Block 10. She designs and sells a variety of clothing from designer sarees, Indian suits, lehengas for women and children as well as kurtas for men.

She designs costumes for various associations like IDAK and D'illusions Dance Academy. She has been on the jury for many cultural events and fashion shows. She was the first designer to be interviewed on Hala Kuwait, KTV and also appeared on a talk show on the Radio in Kuwait.

Sunanda conducts two annual events namely, Jashn Ishq & Jashn Diwali, every year since 2014. It is an initiative to empower women in Kuwait to promote their businesses and cater to the masses. Women from all around Kuwait, gather together to set up stalls selling clothing, jewelry, home décor, and delicacies.

It includes some competitions for kids and adults. The icing is always the fashion show that is orchestrated by Sunanda and each model wears a unique piece designed by her. In Her own words, "My work is my passion. I love dressing up others and continuously strive for better creative ideas and aim at 100% customer satisfaction." With such focus and lofty ambitions, she is certain to shine on.

Dr. Navniit Gandhi

Academic, writer, poet, teacher, counsellor, trainer

An academic, writer, counsellor and trainer—Dr Navniit Gandhi hails from Mumbai, India. She has been writing feature articles for several leading newspapers and magazines of India and for indiansinkuwait.com in Kuwait. She teaches at the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Kuwait Centre and conducts training programs for Gurukul-- a skill-development centre in Kuwait. She is also an active member of the Indian Women In Kuwait (IWIK).

She has seven books, two e-booklets, two workbooks and several academic papers published till date. More than 200 articles written by her on diverse social, political, and economic issues such as Prevention of Suicide, Parenting, Juvenile Diabetes, Problems faced by Unorganized Workers, India and her Neighbours etc have been published and appreciated.

A student of International Politics, Navniit has taught the same in MVLU College, affiliated with the University of Mumbai, for about 12 years. She has also taught Journalism in Kirti College, Mumbai and trained the aspirants to the civil services. For a brief while, she taught at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, before shifting base to Kuwait.

Following her post-graduation, she completed a Diploma course in Advertising and Public Relations, and another one in Psychological Counseling from Mumbai. Her Ph. D sought to establish the rising importance of the non-military dimensions of National Security. She has also authored a Book titled: National Security: the Changing Dimensions and Threats.

In addition to several Awards that she has been conferred with over the years, she was selected in 2005 to represent India to the US (Fulbright American Summer Institute Program) to join a selected group of 18 scholars chosen from all over the world to understand and debate on the American Foreign Policy. She has participated in several International and National Conferences and Conclaves and presented research papers on politico-diplomatic and academic issues.

She writes poetry in Hindi and several poems penned by her have been published in literary magazines in India. Her collection of poems Kuch Lamhe Hi, was published by Lokwani Publishers, New Delhi.

Her most recent publication is Dear Parents, a book published by Better Yourself Books, Mumbai which was adjudged the Best Book in the Family Category at an International Book Exhibition in India in 2018.

Arundhati Singha John

"Times of India once called her a Performer Extraordinaire"

Smt. Arundhati John's is an unending quest for beauty and upliftment. She has distinguished herself as an artist par excellence in the classical dance form of Bharatanatyam.

Having taken her fist dancing steps as a child, she followed her passion to join the prestigious Rukmini Devi College of Fine Arts (Kalakshetra).

She was part of the Darpana Performing Group under the guidance of Late Smt. Mrinalini Sarabhai and Smt. Mallika Sarabhai which facilitated her Bharatanatyam career.

It also led her to learn other forms of dance including contemporary Indian dance forms and Kalaripayattu (A martial arts form). Arundhati John has travelled across the United States and Europe as an actor for theatrical stage shows as well as a classical and contemporary performing artist.

Her reputation resulted in performances at the Sangeet Natak Akademi "Nritya Pratibha" invitational performance for nationally recognized young artists, and the 45th annual "Kal Ke Kalakar" by Sur Singar Samsad.

Arundhati has not only distinguished herself as an excellent artist in classical and contemporary dance but has also acted in a number of theatre plays, TV serials, reality shows and has done a few movies as well. She was also awarded a scholarship by the Government of India, Ministry of Culture to pursue higher studies in Bharatanatyam.

Currently she is the Artistic Director at NRITTA DHYANA - The School of Indian Classical Dance in Kuwait, devoting her time and experience to teaching the art of Bharatanatyam to the younger generation.

Majumithra Sarath

Dancing her style in and out! Managing art and literature hand in hand

Hailing from Edappal Kerala, Manjumithra started learning dance at the age of four under the guidance of Guru.T.P.Balan. She won 'Kalathilakam' title at the various youth festivals of Kerala for more than ten consecutive years from 1997 to 2006. She has been exploring and continuing her training in Bharathanatyam, Mohiniyattam and Kuchippudi from renowned gurus of India such as Thrissur Janardhanan, Kalamandalam Ajitha Ravikumar. She has also done certificate courses in Kalaripayattu, a martial art and Chhau - the odissi folkdance. Manjumithra was awarded 'Natyakalabhramari Award' by Satyanjali School of Kuchippudi, Kerela.

Her Shivadam School of Dance has five branches across Kuwait with more than 200 students. While she teaches the science and techniques of dance to the regular students, she has innovated and introduced cultural fusion in her choreography for stage shows in Kuwait

Her Choreography of 'Chavittu Nadakam' at the Onam Celebration by National Service Society in 2017 attained public attention. Chavittu Nadakam is a dance drama that usually showcases biblical stories, but Manjumithra depicted the Hindu myth of Mahabali, the erstwhile king of Kerala.

She is a part of the Asianet News Communication as an anchor of 'Times of Kuwait'. It is a ''passion'' that comes with her Advanced Diploma in Media Reporting and Editing. She has a Masters in English Literature and an MBA in Human Resource Management.

Working as a faculty in The Indian Community School (Senior) Kuwait while running her own dance school successfully, Manjumithra is a study in time management and multi-tasking.

With more than 150 stage shows to her credit, she has indeed danced her way to success.

Priya Ambalavanan

A multitalented woman with a cheerful attitude

Mrs.Priya Ambalavanan has been living in the Middle East for the past 25 years. Hailing from an orthodox Chennai family, right from childhood she felt bound by societal expectations and always wanted to break free.

Her first achievement came in the form of being the school topper. Apart from excelling in academics, she also played the Veena and was part of the School Basketball team.

Right from her childhood days she aspired to become a banker and with that determination and diligently reading "Competition Success" from public libraries, she passed her banking exam at the first attempt and gained employment with Indian Overseas Bank.

In 1992, she got married to Dr.Ambalavanan and moved to Riyadh where she began her life's next chapter. It was here that she anchored her first program in 1996 and never looked back after that.

In 2004, she moved to Kuwait. She is a regular anchor for many organizations like Indian Doctors Forum (IDF), Kuwait Tamil Sangam, Indian Frontliners etc. She is also a dance coordinator.

A fitness enthusiast, she is forever trying out healthy recipes for her family. A testament to her hard work is the success of her two sons Jay & Ashwin.

A multitalented woman, she continues to make other people smile with her positive and cheerful attitude. Behind every successful man, there is always a woman but according to Priya, the reason for her success is her ever encouraging husband who gave her the freedom and encouragement to pursue her dreams. She always says- "Forget the past, live the present and dream about the future".

Dr. Prabha Krishna

Naturopathist & Holistic Wellness Professional

Dr. Prabha Krishna is a Naturopathic Medical Doctor and a Health Care professional with expertise in Naturopathy, Yoga, Wellness, Ayurveda, Stress management, Nutrition and Diabetes, Hydrotherapy, Acupuncture, Magneto Therapy, Varma Therapy and Holistic Medicine.

Aware of the importance of India's traditional medical systems and its positive effects on health, she chose a career in alternative medicine.

Her quest for knowledge never ended and she also pursued an MBA in health service management, Masters in Yoga and Naturopathy & got certified in Fitness management. She has also undergone further training at eminent Naturopathy Institutions, including National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, under Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.

She has held various positions such as, Principal for a Naturopathy and Yoga Institution and Chief Medical Officer for a Naturopathy hospital in India. Further, she has written many academic books and is involved in designing the Curriculum & Examination patterns, supporting the student fraternity in alternative medicine their research studies. She has conducted various academic and clinical programs for Naturopathy and Holistic Medicine in association with the Tamilnadu Physical Education and Sports University.

She got married to Mr. Krishna Kumar Chartered Accountant. Post marriage they moved to Bahrain and then to Kuwait. They have a 8 years old daughter Jashwanthi, .

In Kuwait, she started "Prabha's Yoga", conducting Yoga sessions for men and women. After few years of her own classes, she associated herself with "Fitness with Urvi"; Urvi is a renowned fitness instructor in Kuwait.

Presently, in addition to her regular classes, she focuses on women's health by conducting various awareness camps on Premenstrual disorders, Breast Cancer, PCOS awareness and Natural detox programs for Diabetes & Life style management programs. She always believes "The natural healing forces within each of us is the greatest force in getting well".

Artist Sangita Desai

Artist by profession , graduate in literature, good singer & social worker

Aritist Sangita Desai has exhibited her creations by participating in various exhibitions in India. But, her first exclusive exibition of her own creations at Salmiyah, in 2003 was a grand success and become popular in kuwait.

Again in 2015, she arranged exhibiton with her creations which was one of the largest art exhibtions held in Kuwait. In that exhibition, she displayed more than 1,000 items all created by her own and each are different items.

Sangita Desai was born in Gujarat. She completed her Bachelor of Arts (BA) in English Literature from South Gujratat University.

Artist by profession and graduate in literature, Sangita is unhappy with today's education system. Sangita is appealing to parents to encourage children to create their own drawing, their own craft. Let us all try to make our children intelligent instead of proficient in memeory.

In persuit of improving intelligence and creativity among society, sangita is teaching art and craft to women and children in Kuwait. She has 26 kinds of art in her cylabus and she calls it A to Z of art.

Besides teaching art, she is a good singer & social worker. She utilises her singing talent during nine day dancing fastival of Gujarat known as Navratri. She served several years in "Samarapan" – Gujarati Cultural association of Kuwait, as committee member.

Lucy Lobo

Mangalorean Comedy Queen

Lucy Lobo Aranha popularly known as "Mangalorean Comedy Queen "one of the famous comedy actress currently working in Kuwait. Her journey to Kuwait began in 1979 .

Currently she is working for Ahli United Bank. She has displayed her talent in acting across the Gulf namely Kuwait, Dubai and Bahrain before finally making her debut in movies with the blockbuster Konkani movie around the world 'Ek Aslyaar Ek Naa'. She has also acted in super hit Tulu movie "Appe Teacher".

Lucy set her foot in acting with "Kuwait Canara Welfare Organization as a part of a stage show for one of their events. Opportunities then beckoned and over the years, she has acted in numerous Mangalorean, Goan, Tulu and Hindi musical /comedy shows.

Her acting skills were not confined to Konkani (theatres/shows); she has marked her presence in Tulu plays and shows as well, with the immense love and support of the audience.

Her credit has been recognized with many Awards.

"Nothing is permanent in this wicked world – not even our troubles" and "Failure is unimportant. It takes courage to make a fool of yourself". Charlie Chaplin

Her acting was bold and natural actress. She is ready to accept any character. Her family and her husband Clifford's is the strong driving force behind her success.

We wish all the very best for all her endeavors!

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the TIME; but they just have the HEART" - Elizabeth Andrew

Harminder Manjeet Sabharwal

Everyday resilience so uncommonly personified

In the year 1976 Harminder moved to Kuwait soon after her marriage to Mr. Manjeet Singh Sabharwal, who was a successful entrepreneur. She was blessed with two children. A common tale - but it all came to a shattering halt in 1982 when her husband passed away in a car accident, leaving her behind with two kids.

"I had always been a protected kid, sister and a wife. And then I had to take full responsibility", she remembers. She had two options - either to move back to India and ask her family to support her or take up the challenge of surviving in Kuwait. Harminder did not take the easy way out.

She found a baby sitter for her kids and took up a job as an administrator in one of the General Trading companies. The 90s brought the Gulf war and another crossroad. Once again, Harminder did not take the easy way out. When most people preferred to return to their homeland, she decided to stay back and make it through this tough period.

Finally, on 26th Dec 1991, when Kuwait was liberated, it was an opportunity to start life afresh. She heard that the Embassy of India was hiring a receptionist. She attended the interview and was offered the job. This was a turning point and the Embassy of India - Kuwait, brought her stability, routine, reputation and lots of learning experience. As she continued to work, and her kids finished school, it was time for them to go for further studies. And once again, Harminder did not take the easy way out and send them to India. She worked hard to send her children to study abroad.

During her 26 years at the Embassy, she made a place for herself in the Indian community. On 31st December 2017 she retired and has started a new chapter of her life. She is currently the Vice-President of two associations - Indians in GCC and Welfare-India Kuwait. This allows her to serve the community. These associations have been active in holding welfare programs, health camps and legal clinics in order to provide assistance to the Indian community.

It has been a long journey for Harminder. It's been more than 43 years, and she is still making every moment count.

Vijayapriya Ramanan

- A Public Speaker, Social worker, Tamil Teacher & Expert Anchor

Vijayapriya Ramanan a Compere, social worker and a public speaker par excellence; is a well-known person among the Tamil community in Kuwait. She has the unique gift of attractive speech combined with empathy with the audience. Her poise and confidence on stage combined with her energy creates an entertaining vibe with the crowd that never fails to be mesmerized by her voice.

Apart from compering, Vijayapriya took an initiative to teach Tamil as well as to conduct Thirukural and Balavihar Classes for children. "It is important to teach them the cultural and religious values", she says. Capitalizing on her in-depth knowledge of Tamil, Vijayapriya also directs Tamil dramas to showcase the talent of the children.

Her service to the cause of education has got her two awards: Sathanai Thamilzar Viruthu-2017 as "KalvithTharakai -2017" and the Nallasiriyar Award.

Helping people realize their potential and uniqueness is a prime motivator for Vijayapriya Ramanan. She is an active committee member of Indian Frontliners, Tamil Nadu Engineers Forum, Kuwait Tamil Sangam, Valaikuda Vanambadi, Senthamizh Kalai Manram, and many other socio-cultural organisations.

Vijaypriya fondly recalls how she was an active member of school and college cultural and literary associations and won prizes in State level talk shows. In fact, her participation in "Visuvin Arattai Arangam" became a real turning point in her passion to conduct stage events.

TK Sharanya Devi

A confident and talented woman, with a passion for shooting

Sharanya who hails from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, is a teacher at Indian Community School, Khaitan. She bagged the Gold in women's 50-metre sniper-22 category at the prestigious Al Kandari Annual shooting competition held in Kuwait - the first Indian to have won this.

"My uncle used to shoot when I was young and I was fascinated by the guns. I enrolled myself in the Coimbatore Rifle Club and started learning how to shoot" she recalls. She practiced for two years during college.

However, marriage, the move to Kuwait and the birth of her daughter made her passion take a backseat. She never ever thought she would pursue shooting after her marriage.

That's the time one of her friends told her that there is a shooting range in Kuwait, where they allow expatriates to practice. She adds, "To my surprise, I could maintain the shooting consistency even after such a long hiatus.

The dean of the shooting range Omar Al Ansari told her that she was shooting really well and wanted her to pursue it seriously. So, she started training regularly at the range winning the shooter of the week contest three consecutive weeks, which boosted her confidence. She credits the Coimbatore Rifle Club coach Murali Sir who taught her the basics so well for her current success.

Sharanya is also a talented actress. She won the Best Actress Runner Up award at Thoppil Baasi International drama festival held in Kuwait in 2017. This confident and talented woman, with a humble demeanor, was also the runner-up in the Mrs. Coimbatore contest held in 2006-2007.

Safa Khan

Singing is like oxygen to her soul

Safa, besotted with music, has already made a name for herself as an artist, with her rhythm and modulated voice making its foray into the music world in India and Kuwait. Blessed with a maverick streak, Safa showcases sublime powers of spontaneous creation in a raga!

Safa's musical journey started at the age of 5, when she sang the unforgettable "Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehana" in her UKG Graduation Ceremony, and then her vocal chords started playing its magic with the musical notes.

Safa made her official debut in the much awaited Shibani Kashyap Extravagant show way back in 2008. Her vibrant performance in "Ambassador of Comedy" was applauded and she earned many accolades for singing.

Safa began her formal education in music with her local mentor, Mrs. Keka Mukherjee and accomplished her junior diploma in vocal classical from West Bengal. Sangeet Maestro Ajoy chakrobarthy and Manjusha Bedekar played an eminent role in guiding Safa's musical journey.

She is relentlessly pursuing her Hindustani Classical music in Mumbai. Recently she created euphoria in her maternal hometown Raipur by being a part of Band-Rockers as their lead singer.

Safa gathered many feathers in her cap by rendering her melodious voice with stalwarts and veterans like Kavita Krishnamurthy, Kumar Sanu, Alka Yagnik, Shreya Ghosal, Adnan Sami to name a few!

She considers herself blessed to get an opportunity to sing along with Bollywood's big-wigs like Salim Suleiman, Richa Sharma, Vinod Rathod, Javed Ali, Himesh Reshamiya, Meet Brothers, Sachin-Jigar, Mohit Chauhan, Daler Mehndi, Anuradha Paudwal, Amit Kumar, Haricharan Seshadri and none other than Hariharan. She also shares the stage with Ghazal maestro Jaswinder Singh & Shishir Parkhi.

Safa's unsurpassed expressiveness and virtuosity is what makes her music unique.

Dr. Vijayalakshmi Anantharaj

Shaddling New Heights

Dr. Vijayalakshmi carries over 30 years of professional experience in teaching and Structural Design. She completed Doctorate in Civil Engineering as the first women candidate of Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Coimbatore.

She started her carrier in teaching from the year 1987 and worked as an Assistant Professor of Civil / Structural Engineering in Coimbatore Institute of Technology until the year 2005. She continued her career in Kuwait as Lead Design Engineer (Civil/ Structural) in leading companies namely Alghanim International, ABJ Fabrication Services, Kuwait as the only woman engineer and is currently working in KNPC.

Her expertise includes design / analysis, conceptual studies and detailed engineering of civil & structural projects related to the Oil & Gas industry, infrastructure projects including Road Layout Design, Water & Waste water Layout and Design, Survey and Soil Investigation etc. She has presented more than 30 technical papers in India and Kuwait.

Dr. Vijayalakshmi is an active member of Tamilnadu Engineers Forum (TEF). She has organized / participated in the "Technological Innovation Conference and Exposition" conducted for the past 9 years. She has also presented technical papers at the conferences organized by TEF and IEI - Kuwait.

As a hardworking team player, she has organized monthly programs exclusively for Women for the whole year 2017 under the umbrella of TEF and organizes their Women's Day event for the TEF community every year.

As a multi-talented personality, she has participated in various cultural events organized by Tamil associations, directed and acted in dramas, directed short films, actively participated in sports and games. Dr. Vijayalakshmi is married to Anantharaj Ramachandran and blessed with two sons.

Manju Sibi

Make this life happier for ourselves and others.

It was her father who first saw a budding dancer in that little girl. He saw rhythm in her first steps. She danced whether none watched or everyone watched. She would spin for the moon and the stars if everyone else was busy. He assigned the best teachers available in their South Indian state of Kerala for his daughter.

Manju started her dance education with 'Bharatanatyam' under the renowned teacher Kalaman-dalamVinayachandran. Soon she was also learning 'Mohiniyattam' and 'Kuchuppudi'. She be-came a constant winner at school and later University competitions. She conquered the realms of Bollywood and Soft Western styles of dancing as well.

Marriage brought her to Delhi and here Manju got the opportunity to explore 'Kathak'. She be-came a student of 'Kalashram', the institute founded by the great Kathak Master; Pandit Birju Maharaj, the living legend and icon of this dance. Manju evolved in this Temple of Kathak from 2011 to 2017 performing to great audiences on reputed stages in the capital city.

Once she relocated to Kuwait in 2017 with her husband's posting to the Indian Embassy in Ku-wait, curtains parted for her to perform for international audiences. When she was highly appre-ciated by the Honorable Foreign Minister of India, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, for one of her perfor-mances in Kuwait, Manju was overwhelmed and she cherishes those moments. For her perfor-mances, Manju prefers songs sung or choreographed by her great teacher Pandit Birju Maharaj. But she is a free spirit and her experiments in choreography were great successes.

Manju is a graduate in Psychology and also a Master of Business Administration (MBA). Read-ing and driving are her hobbies. She has participated in car races as well. "At times we all dance solo at the edge of the world, none watching. But to me, happiness is my family. They are in my swings and sways, hand in hand all the while".

"Life is a dance. I embrace every step in that long performance of joy and sorrow, of fear and love, of grief and celebration, of failure and victory, of pain and pleasure. We fall in love with that one long dance," To this day she graces various stages in Kuwait with her performances, carrying the torch of her father's memories unextinguished.

Tapasya Dance Troupe

confluence of souls

Tapasya is a dance troupe formed by 12 women who care, support and empower each other at every juncture of their womanhood! It was launched in 2017 by Mrs. Dakshina Vaidyanathan, Bharatanatyam dancer and innovative choreographer.

Working in diverse fields, the members of the troupe come together to perform classical and semi-classical dances in various events all over Kuwait. It is not just a group of female dancers ... nor is it just a group of mothers who refuse to give up their lives' greatest passion. Tapasya is a confluence of souls!

Tapasya launched a campaign on directing aspiring dancers towards classical dance gurus. "Power of Being in Good hands"- An initiative to identify, acknowledge and promote authentic Indian classical dance gurus and schools in Kuwait for the benefit of parents and kids.

The other pillars of Tapsya are :Soumya Pratap, Suman Eldho, Sowmya Narayanan, Sunitha Pramod, Reshma Subodh, Renjini Saju, Sapna Murali, Darshana Jayadevan, Sharika Rohit, Ayesha George, Geetha Menon & Bhavana Menon.

Soumya pratap, a native of Bangalore, an IT professional, is a gifted dancer, choreographer, mentor, and above all, a selfless leader and the thread which ties Tapasya together. She is known for her strong and crisp dance 'adavus', competent in classical and western styles of dancing.

Suman Eldho, a native of Ernakulam, another IT professional, loves to engineer her life through the art of dancing. This witty, optimistic dancer has an incredible sense of humor.

Soumya Narayanan, a lead therapist at ABC Kuwait, is a hard-working and passionate dancer who loves challenging situations where others might give up easily.

Sunitha Pramod is senior research assistant at Kuwait University and is also an athlete and emerges from her cocoon to mesmerize the audience.

Reshma Subodh, a quality professional at Hadi Clinic is a true blend of cultures, where east meets west. Her graceful and elegant moves along with her captivating expressions are a feast to the eyes.

Renjini Saju from Ernakulam is a senior accountant in a shipping company. With her classically beautiful retro looks, is an eye catcher on the stage. This very capable lady is the creative head of Tapasya, when it comes to costume designing.

Sapna Murali, a native of Thrissur is a very humble and committed dance guru and is always keen to share her passion for dance. A hard working and patient Kuchipudi performer, she believes dancing is a shortcut to happiness and fulfillment.

Geetha Manoj a native of Palghar is a great team player. Acting is her forte and she excels in performances which require it.

Darshana Jayadevan is a very committed dancer and a skillful makeup artist, making her a true asset to Tapasya.

Sharika Rohit believes that the truest expression of a person is in their dance. This nimble footed dancer can manage the beats of both Indian and western dance with ease.

Ayesha George, a native of Alappuzha, chief quality officer at Taiba Hospital, strives to bring quality to every performance with her vibrant energy and eloquent expressions.

Bhavana Menon, the youngest member of the team, is an architect and is currently pursuing a PG in Bharatanatyam under the guidance of Smt. Divya Shiv Sundar, disciple of 'The Dhananjayans'.

Creating ripples on stages all over Kuwait, this bunch of talented dancers are a force to reckon with.

Sindhu Madhuraj

Founder and Director of Anjali School of Dance

Sindhu was able to recognize her passion for dance at the tender age of 5 and managed her academic studies (she is a post graduate in Business Management) alongside her rigourous dance training.

Hailing from Chennai, she had the privilege to learn Bharatanatyam, Mohiniattam and Kuchipudi at its purest from the land where it originated under the guidance of such stalwarts as Guru SriSahadevan (Bharatakalanjali of Dhananjayan's) and Guru Sheela Sahadevan (Kalakshetra,Chennai). She also had the opportunity to work with music composer, choreographer and dancer Mr. Madurai R Muralidharan in his dance production "Shivagamiyin Sabadam"

After years of devoted training, in 2004, her dreams came true when she started to impart her dancing skills to the children in Kuwait, with the initiation of her own dance school 'Anjali School of Dance'. Starting with just 5 students, now the school has more than 200 students getting trained under her.

Her passion for dance and her quest for excellence have moulded her into a complete and multi-faceted artist and one of the leading Gurus in Kuwait. She fuses aesthetic sensibilities with technical expertise. Her depiction of various mythological sequences and her creative presentation and interpretation has a mystical subtleness filled with absolute devotion.

As a Guru, Sindhu Madhuraj does not spare any student from understanding the depths of any dance form and strives tirelessly to train them to give their best. She molds her students by inculcating in them commitment, discipline and a quest for perfection.

Rajasree Prem

Actor, Choreographer & Social worker

Rajasree Prem is a foremost exponent of Indian classical dance in Kuwait who brings depth, intensity and naturalness to her performances. Her expertise has been shaped and nurtured by various renowned Gurus like Sridevi Kalashetra and Kalamandalam Sulochana since the tender age of 4.

Being a very strong and ambitious personality, she has strived relentlessly to take the art forward to the next generation. She is the Director of Prathiba School of Dance started in 2008 which has nurtured hundreds of young talents all over Kuwait. It is the only dance school affiliated to a University – The Pracheen Kala Kendra, with University exams being conducted regularly.

Her choreography and students have mesmerized audiences at over 500 stage performances. The Mayooram series was a huge success in the years 2013, 2016 and 2018. The artistic center of Guruvayoor in Kerala also witnessed 'Natayaprayanam' over the last two years, giving rise to innovative compositions by Rajasree. Her growing energy along with dedication is to reflect in 3 upcoming mega shows in 2019.

Achievements and laurels have always followed her from childhood when she used to constantly win competitions in Bharatanatyam, Kuchupudi, Ottanthullal and other folk dances. Recently she was awarded by the World Malayalee Federation (WMF) Kuwait Chapter. Rajasree hails from an artistically inclined family and thus receives sincere support from her dear ones.

She is a pioneer in imparting her immense knowledge to others by conducting workshops and giving lectures. She is a staunch supporter of women empowerment and wants them to explore the dancing arena as a medium for expressing their emotions and creativity.

Tanusmita Das Chakroborty

- Artist, Choreographer & Teacher

Tanusmita Das Chakroborty is one of those women whose achievements are all about conquering hardships. An artist, a choreographer, a teacher, & above all an amazing mother she is working at New Indian Central School as a CCA coordinator and Performing Arts teacher.

Tanusmita was born and brought up in Kolkata and started learning Bharatanatyam while in school. She has been trained in Odissi as well. Alongside classical form of dance she loves to experiment with other dance forms such as western classical, contemporary & has done significant performances in each & every form.

In the last decade, she has performed and choreographed many dance programs conducted by various associations. She has proved her uniqueness, magic, charisma through her work, her dedication & her vibrant stunning look.

In India, she has worked with many reputed banners and renowned stars in regional movies in Bengal both on screen and off screen. She has choreographed and performed in several shows in India and abroad & shared the stage with famous Bollywood stars.

She received a certificate of appreciation from the Ambassador of India for participating in Cultural Season of Kuwait National Commission of UNESCO in the year 2015.

She runs a WhatsApp group with more than five hundred women in it to provide a platform for exchange of ideas and information. It is the largest women's group in Kuwait, which is going strong since 2015.

She believes in hard work & honesty & that is the reason she is well known & loved by her students, friends and the community.

Apart from dance, she has also completed her diploma in 3D animation. She is a fighter who is just unstoppable in any circumstances. During her entire career, she has walked a long way & faced many ups & downs but has refused to give up and struggled hard to chase her dreams.

Indrani Ray

A passionate & fun loving person with the motto of spreading social awareness

Indrani Ray is proud to have been born in Kolkata - a city of cultural heritage. "I did many stage shows mainly drama and musical programs and compering that gave me immense satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment" says Indrani.

Indrani is a Commerce graduate with an IT background and also a professional from the Insurance Institute of India. After her marriage she moved to Muscat.

Always being a positive person, a new place did not stop her from spreading her wings. She worked professionally in diverse sectors and became an active member of the Bengali Cultural Society in Muscat. The family then moved to Dubai where she worked with General Insurance Company.

After several years in Dubai, she joined her husband in Kuwait. Indrani didn't take up a job and instead decided to explore her creative side. Writing became her passion and she started writing poems and scripts. In one such gathering she was asked to write a song on the theme of Old Age home (Vridhya Ashram) by Music Director Subhasish Bhattacharya.

It is one of her most acclaimed piece where she describes the emotions of parents and how helpless they feel when they are left alone in a Vridhya Ashram. This song was sung by National Award winner Iman Chakravorty and produced by Shree Guru Productions.

Indrani also did programs in FM Bangla Kuwait, where she wrote and spoke on various contemporary and social issues. She has successfully written short plays relating to health issues revolving around the day to day difficulties of people. She is a co-writer for the plays "Sapno ke Paer", which has been staged twice and another one is 'Uff yeh diet' which will be staged soon.

Always looking for doing something new, she is now working on two projects - "Nutribox" healthy partying with healthy food and "gateway to smart learning for kids".

Kavita Sarvesh

A Nurturer by choice and Psychologist by profession

Kavita Sarvesh is a live example of a versatile personality whose contribution to the society is multifaceted. Being a mother of two grown up daughters, nurturing comes naturally to her. While belonging to a humble background, she has always understood the value of human emotions and that makes her the person she is.

Kavita Sarvesh is a believer, who knows the art of converting the odds in her favour. Despite of regular transfers due to her husband's work, her degrees in Business Management and Masters in Psychology provided her skills to create a niche for herself wherever she went.

She taught in a number of MBA Colleges in India for 14 years. And then she studied to become a Behavioral Trainer and Coach from the prestigious Indian Society for Training and Development (ISTD). A number of corporate houses and colleges like Future group (Big Bazaar), DS Group, Tolani College (Gujarat), Army Institute of Management Kolkata, benefitted from her expertise.

She lent her voice to AIR FM Radio in Kolkata for several years. The radio fetched her lot of fan-following as she could narrate and sing to her listeners at the same time.

Having stayed in Kuwait for more than six years now, she shines in her own frame. As a member of South Kuwait Toast Masters Club, she promotes good English while at the same time she supports Hindi, by attending Mushairas and reciting her own compositions. She also has a YouTube channel in her name called "BHAAP". In her own words, "aao khol de un girahon ko"(lets open all the knots..), she emphasizes on the power of communication and touching others through words.

The most fulfilling role she is performing at present is that of being a psychologist. Her tiny home venture- "Nature & Nurture" which specializes in Psychological Counseling, Creating Terrariums & Fairy Gardens and Designing Fairy Garden Furniture had recently conducted a unique workshop.

Rama Mehta

Enhancing health and wellbeing of the individual and the community

Holding a strong desire to help as many people as possible to achieve good physical and mental health, Rama Mehta is a nutritionist by profession for the last 25 years.

She believes sharing views and outlook always makes one feel better. "It can be very soothing to voice your worries or health concerns", she opines. Family and friends are a big help however an outside perspective and expert guidance can often benefit.

She has done Masters in Food and Nutrition and has Level One certification in psycho drama. She has worked as lecturer and counsellor in educational institutions and as social worker with Rotary Inner Wheel Club, India. She served as nutritionist at renowned health and wellness company Anjali Mukerjee Health Total. She is currently head coach with GOQii, a California based company in the health wearables sector, and is nutrition expert for teenagers for a California based start-up called Charm Room.

Rama works with dietary management which revolves around healthy eating and good nutrition while concentrating on other lifestyle factors like sleep, physical activity and social as well as mental health. She has helped many people struggling with various health issues and obesity with healthy diet and lifestyle changes.

She is an avid health blogger and is the founder and CEO of a company called "Rangmanch se Healthy", spearheading psycho dramas around health issues. Her vision is to enhance health and well being in both community settings and for individuals. Working with real stories gives the opportunity to learn about health contexts from both a viewer's perspective and as a participant. She has successfully presented multiple shows of the drama "Sapno Ke Paer" last year in Kuwait, which was based on the true story of two of her clients facing physical and mental health issues.

Rama wants to motivate people to initiate change using art and creativity. For this she has conducted many corporate workshops with various organisations. She also has further aspirations to do certification in hypnotherapy to understand behaviour patterns as these often dictate eating and lifestyle choices.

Vijaya Nair

Educationist/Social Worker/Media Coordinator/Writer/Anchor/Artist /Event Planner & Promoter

Ms. Vijaya Nirmala Yadav well known as Vijaya Nair, was born in Goa, raised in Mangalore, Karnataka, is an amalgamated person of vibrancy and multifarious capacity hailing from a prominent family that has ties with all southern states of India.

She earned her B.A, B.Ed. and MBA degrees from India, TKT from Cambridge University and Montessori from Srinivas Academy, Mumbai. She has gained this academic excellence after her marriage by having a balance between her social work and personal life.

She also desires to complete a Ph.D. in Social work. She is credited for working with NGO Life Again Foundation and Telangana Jagruthi Kuwait. She is to an Advisor in many associations as a part of women empowerment activity. She is a polyglot and can comprehend nine Indian languages and Arabic.

Her innate talents has led to serve her community people by conducting various events in the arena of health, education, social work and awareness programs.

Her name has gained a household momentum among Arabic people for having worked as an English teacher in Arabic schools. She earned deserved acknowledgment for assisting Kuwaiti dropouts and reluctant women folk in Kuwaiti households to complete their education.

She has stood, strong as a steadfast counsellor to the kids of Kuwaiti councils, Defense Officers etc. Her career has been enriched by working in Indian schools as well as in Al Mulla Exchange and KISR. Her cinematic expertise is manifested in the visual treat of her performances as a stage artist in Hindi and in Telugu cinemas as well as acting in Kuwait.

She is the deserving receipient of many awards like - "Best Teacher of the year 2003"(SSCE), "Best event coordinator", "Best Event Promoter, Kuwait Indian Socio Cultural coordinator, South Indian Cultural ambassador, Best supportive media coordinator,poet,writer actor and now the NRI of the month among many more awards.

Her ability to touch the entire gamat of social activities is extended to being an anchor a judge and above all an advocate for humanitarian projects.

Dr. Harshitha

True Healer

Inspired by her friend's mother who used to visit their school for health camps, Harshita then just a child was determined to become a doctor.

Her memories of that first day at medical college are fresh and sweet. A fun loving and happy-go-lucky girl by nature, med school instilled in her both discipline and hard work. It also taught her to face difficulties in her profession and life.

At school, Dr Harshita was into a lot of sports such as basketball, volley ball, badminton and Yoga winning prizes at state level competitions. She also had a creative bent and excelled at Painting, Rangoli and Mehendi. Dance and music are her other passions. She trained under Mrs. Shoba Raju, an eminent classical singer. Dancing is something she still does and feels happy that her daughters have inherited her devotion to this art form.

"I have been blessed with a wonderfully supportive family" she says. Her destiny brought her to Kuwait, and she elected to care for her young children at that time instead of working outside. Eventually she took up a fellowship course in Diabetology. She is an active member of Indian Doctors Forum (IDF) since 2015 and is the co-ordinator for the forum's cultural events.

She has also opened her own boutique where she sells clothes and accessories sourced from small scale women entrepreneurs all over India. "There are so many more milestones yet to be achieved." says the multi-talented Dr. Harshita.

Hemali Shringi

A multi talented Dancer, Instructor,Choreographer, Event organizer, Costume Designer, Teacher and an active Leader.

A prominent lady in kuwait Indian Community , is considered by many as an amazing Dancer,Instructor, Choreographer, Event organizer, Costume Designer, Teacher and an active Leader.

She has been in kuwait from 2002 and works as a Social Science teacher in the Indian English Academy School. While there, she was also assigned as a dance instructor through which she expanded her passion into implementing her own dance academy, entitled 'Dance Benefit'.

In her short history, she has participated and claimed several awards within multiple dance competitions.

From the start of her career in Kuwait, Hemali has been focused on using the best of her creative powers and surprises the audience with her clinical choreography into group and solo performances. An expert in Aerobics, & Yoga, she has also mastered as an Acupressure Therapist and contributes her services to the needy in society.

she is the committee member in the famous Upkar Association, where she leads as a Cultural Secretary and drives traditional Indian festivities and events for it's members. Her creative spark even touches to the further extents of her family business, where she serves as the head of production in customizing uniforms, leading boutique designs and distinctive templates for her customers.

Moumita Battacharya

Organizing Fashions Shows, Exhibitions and Events

Moumita Battacharya was brought up in Kolkata, the City of Joy. She grew up watching Mother Teresa taking care of the city. While doing her graduation she started giving tuitions to small children to pursue her PGDBM degree and worked in a school for 2 years. After completing her MBA, she got a job in ICICI Bank and later worked at Wipro and IBM.

After her marriage she moved from Mumbai to Kuwait where she became busy taking care of her family. She went back to India to take care of her father who was suffering from cancer. Her father's death changed her life completely. Her mother was also suffering from kidney failure so she decided to do something on her own which would give her time to take care of her mother and her children.

Jewelry had always attracted her and she decided to work with artificial jewelry. Initially her husband was not in favor of her selling artificial jewelry but she managed to convince him and started her business. She started this business with just 65 pairs of earrings. The demand increased day by day and she started adding variety to her collection.

She named her business "SB Fashions" after her late father who has always been her inspiration. Her business has been running successfully for last 7 years. Now she has successfully taken it to the e-commerce platform with www.sbfashionsjewellery.com. Today SB Fashions products are available on popular e-commerce sites such as Amazon, ebay, Snapdeal, Flipkart, Mirraw, Craftsvilla etc.

Moumita says that it was a big challenge for her to take a home business to the next level and she feels blessed to be surrounded by lots of friends who have been a constant source of inspiration and support for her. SB Fashions has also been conducting fashion shows, exhibitions and events in Kuwait where ladies doing home businesses are encouraged to come forward and promote their work.

Moumita is blessed to have a eight year old daughter. As she says, "When I work for my business, I do it with a lot of passion… I don't look into the profits.

Priya Haridas

A multi-talented lawyer

Priya Haridas, a multi- talented Lawyer is a perfect example of a woman who excels in her career due to her extra ordinary passion for her work.

She attended S.D.M. Law College, Mangalore and graduated with distinction. Her career chart began from Palakkad court where she worked as an Advocate. With her 4 years of legal experience in India, she moved to Kuwait in the year 2006 and started working as a Legal Consultant in one of the well-known Law Firms in Kuwait.

Today with over 17 years of work experience, Priya shines as a bright star in her profession as the Legal Affairs Manager at the Middle East Business Solutions, a company which provides logistical services and solutions to American DoD contractors. She is one of the very few woman lawyers from India pursuing their career in Kuwait.

Her passion and achievements gave her the opportunity to serve as Vice President Of Indian Lawyers' Forum Kuwait. Her commitment to serving the people, especially those who are economically backward to overcome their legal issues deserves a lot of appreciation. Her service to Indian laborers during the period of Amnesty was well recognized by the common public.

Priya is a lawyer who is easily approachable which makes people comfortable in sharing their problems with her. She insists that any individual living abroad should know his/her rights under the laws of the country they live in. She strongly condemns the practice of illegal visa trading; identifying it as the root cause of most expatriate legal issues in Kuwait.

Apart from being a lawyer, she is a passionate artist and involves herself in painting and dance. She actively takes part in humanitarian and charity services. Priya's motto is to "Be Happy and strive to Become a Better Version Of Yourself".

Gulshan Patel

Life is beautiful, dynamic and exciting- if you are a tiny-tot at FAIPS KG!

Modesty and compassion, an unparalleled passion for teaching, a divine soul, a visionary, a music lover, a veteran in the kinder world, these few adjectives are just not enough to encapsulate and define this versatile person. Gulshan P. Patel is the heart and soul of FAIPS-KG

Her contribution to the expansion of the FAIPS Kindergarten is indeed noteworthy. With her expertise, she has farged many creative think tanks and glued them in to an exemplary team to build a heaven called the Kindergarten.

She has made the curriculum more adaptive to the changing needs of the evolving education system and made it more meaningful. Her vision is to provide a learning environment and offer experiences that promote physical, social, intellectual and emotional development.

She says, "If precis goals are created, then children find it comfortable in meeting their goals". She believes that all children should be given the opportunity to experience the best possible start to their education. She has rendered valuable services for special needs children too.

Mrs. Patel believes age is no bar for learning, if you have a will to do so- she did her B.Ed at the age of 40 and took a turn in her career!

Today the role of a school is not only to pursue academic excellence but also to empower its students to be lifelong learners. She says that "we are constantly trying to provide the best possible environment for healthy development of tiny-tots by providing a carefully planned and structured environment in which the child grows and learns in a natural way".

"Focus on the journey, not the destination. Joy is found not in finishing an activity, but in doing it" is Gulshan's watchword.

Amena Japanwala

Charismatic like a diamond with many sides

Amena works with Agility as Special Projects Manager in the Chairman's department which allows her to fulfill her passion for enhancing education in remote parts of India, raise awareness about the aquatic life in the Arabian Gulf and many other causes.

A dynamic, multilingual anchor since 2016, she hosts a program 'Second Home' for Kuwait TV 2. It showcases events and cultural activities that expatriate dignitaries, diplomats and business owners are engaged in. She also interviews celebrities visiting Kuwait. Zealous about meeting people from different walks of life, Amena believes this is a rewarding experience in itself.

She is an integral part of Fankaar Arts, a theatrical group based out of Kuwait which has been performing for over 3 decades. She has been captivating audiences with her vibrant performances in lead roles in plays staged in the Middle East and India. She recently performed in "Hai Re Meri Biwi" in Bhartiya Vidha Bhavan, Mumbai, commemorating the National Day of Kuwait in India with the Comedy King of Bollywood, Johnny Lever, being the chief guest. She played the lead in the first Telegu film produced in Kuwait: "Pelli Katha Chitram".

She has also acted in an Urdu comedy serial: "Sab Chalta Hai" with production house AAM pictures. She is the Public Relations Officer of the Gulf Urdu Council and has hosted regional Mushairas including one with the legendary painter and poet, MF Hussain.

She has won the Toastmasters district level competition in two categories: The Inspirational Speech contest and The Humorous Speech contest. She has modeled for the well-known Kuwait based photography company, Apache Photography and also worked in an ad film made for the Ministry of Interior for national television.

Amena, whose fascination and curiosity for subatomic particles led her to earn a Masters Degree in Physics, continues to learn more about different forms of energy such as Bio energy, Pranic healing, Energy medicine, Meditation into past lives and Feng Shui. Whenever she finds time she does Feng Shui consultancy to promote harmonious energy in homes and offices.

She shares her knowledge through various seminars that she conducts in India for holistic living. She strongly believes everyone is connected through energy and her goal in life is to grow spiritually. When asked "what do you want to be?" She says: I want to be like water. I want to slip through fingers, but hold up a ship!

Tabassum Ali

Essence of a Woman

Tabassum Ali has been living in the Gulf for the past 20 years with her husband and two beautiful daughters. She believes herself to be a lifelong student and wants to cover all arenas of knowledge.

Born and brought up in the Financial Capital of Incredible India, Mumbai, she completed her Graduation in Commerce from Mumbai University and pursued Law from the Government College of Law.

While in college she was actively involved in a lot of extra-curricular activities and hobbies like trekking, sports, painting and dancing. She has won accolades in Inter collegiate, inter university Judo and Handball tournaments.

Tabassum worked as a Manager in Reliance Group of Companies. She was amongst the 10 management trainees who were selected from around 5000 aspirants. She has also worked with Karvy Consultancy Services Ltd.

After marriage she moved first to Saudi Arabia and then to Kuwait. Her husband works for British Airways as Area Manager handling 3 countries Kuwait, Jordan and Lebanon. She pursued her B.Ed and joined her children's school for a short span.

Now with the knowledge and experience of a teacher coupled with her expertise in public speaking, dancing and art she volunteers her services to help schools like Indian English Academy School, Indian Community School and Indian Central School in various activities like judging student's debates, speech contest, dancing competition, choreography, singing competitions, etc.

Recently her team 'Don Bosco Lions' Super Sr. category won 2nd place in Dhoom Macha Le in November 2018 where the Judges were Skipper Mudassar Khan and Punit Pathak of movies ABCD and Nawabzaade fame.

In January, 2017 she had undertaken the toughest trek of India called 'Chadar Trek' in Ladakh which entailed walking and staying in tents on the frozen zanskar river at -30 degrees.

She is a passionate toastmaster and has won many speech contests. She has been the President of Macesprings Toastmasters club and member of two other elite clubs. With that experience she now mentors the new toastmasters who aspire to become communicators.

Kuwait which is her second home and for her children their first has given her a fulfilled and satisfied life.

SOME OF OUR WELL WISHERS

M.A. Asad Khan

Askok Kalra

K.S. Lamba

B.N. Malhotra

Sulaiman

Dhiraj Oberai

S.K. Wadhawan

Shiv Bhasin

Ravi Varrier

N.S. Shetty

M. Mullick

Suryakanth

Mukesh Kumar

Jitendra Suri

Aziz F.

Sathyamurthy

P.V. Sunil Menon

Har Charan Singh

Vijay Devraj

Nitin Singhvi

Rama Chandran

Stanley

Ramesh

Andrews

Srinivasan

K.G. Abraham

Dr. Narendar Dhir

Abraham David

Neerja Bhanot - First Woman recipient of Ashok Chakra

K Neerja Bhanot's was the first civilian and the 23yr old youngest person to be bestowed with the Ashok Chakra. The Ashoka Chakra is India's highest peacetime military decoration awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield. The valiant national hero, who saved 359 lives, helped evacuate everyone on board of hijacked Pan American flight on 5 September 1986, but she was shot while leading a group of children to safety.

Posthumously, she became the youngest and the only female recipient of India's highest peacetime military award for bravery, the Ashok Chakra. Born in a Punjabi family in Chandigarh, she was brought up in Mumbai. Neerja Bhanot, a woman who was brave in life and brave in death, set an example for all Indians by standing up to a group of hijackers and redefined our understanding of words like 'humanity' and 'bravery'. 'Do your duty, come what may' was her motto and she stood by it until her last breath.

SOME OF OUR WELL WISHERS

R. Seetharaman

Lawrence D'souza

S.M. Hyder Ali

Sirish

Ananthi Natarajan

B. Valavan

A. Stephen

P. Senthil Kumar

S.C. Jolly

Carmo Santos

Shahinsha

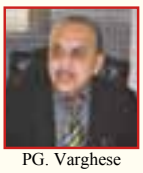
Deepak Jolly

G.Ramaraj

Syed Anwar

Vijay

Dr. Binumon


PG. Varghese

Ibrahim Kutty

Jacob Thomas

Agnello Fernandes

Mohamed Merchant

Devesh Kumar

K. Jeya Kumar

Anant Kapadia

Singaravelu

Arif Kazi

Jyothi

Kumar

Padma Shri awardee Chinna Pillai - Empower Women by Micro Finance

Chinna Pillai was one of five women to receive the Sree Shakti Puraskar in 1999. In a picture perfect moment for the press, then-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee bowed down in respect and touched her feet while presenting her with the award. She received Padma Shri for her service in 2019.

She is from a small village near Madurai. She helped rural women escape from debt trap by starting a microcredit finance Banking system movement called Kalanjiyam.TheKalanjiam, microcredit movement received a huge boost from her dedication and contributions, reaching out to many women living under poverty.

SOME OF OUR WELL WISHERS

Saleah Al Moosa

Ajai Goel

Ravi Kohli

Krishnakumar

Aijaz Ahmad Sarfaraz

Harjeet Sawhney

C. Sabu

Shantha Maria James

J P Bansal

Reavan

Yoga

Mohammed Khan

K.V. Bhandary

R. Kuppanna

Alkesh Takker

Sardar Janki

Fakhruddin

Ashok Kamptan

Ali Khan

Nurullah

Mohamed Hilal

K.N. Subramanian

Vijay

Radhakrishnan

Sasikumar

Babu Razack

Santhosh

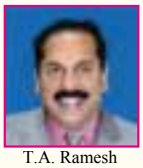
R. Rajkumar

Flight Lieutenant Avani Chaturvedi - First Women Fighterjet pilot

In 2016, Avani Chaturvedi created history by becoming one of the first women fighter pilots in India, alongside- Mohana Singh and BhawanaKanth.

She was promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant this year, having already been inducted into the squadron back in 2016. In February 2018, Avani became the country's first-ever women pilot to fly a MiG-21. With her pursuit of the skies not slowing down, the young pilot sure has many more milestones ahead.

SOME OF OUR WELL WISHERS


T.A. Ramesh

R.C. Suresh

Bhaqwan Gidwani

John Mathew

Valerine M. D'sa

K.T. Rabiullah

Delhi Batcha

Prabhu

Raja Ganapathy

Riyas

K. Ramani

Rajan Peter

Mohamed Arif

Alexander

Fairoz Miller

Gasper

Ramesh Babu

Ram Mohan Reddy

Selvaraj

Deivasigamani

Udhayam Balan

S.K.S

Siva

Tyagi

Labba S.A

Ramesh

Ravi Tamilvannan

M.K. Samy

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Lakshman Sruthi Orchestra

லக்ஷ்மன் ஸ்ருதியின்
அதிரடி.. கலக்கல்..தேனிசை மழை!

Karthigaichelvan
Managing Editor at Puthiyathalaimurai TV

National Integration Cultural Show

Varalakshmi Sarathkumar
Actress

Malgudi Subha

Anand Aravindhakshan

Dhanyasree

Aarthi

On April 26th Friday 5:45 PM
at Kuwait Medical Association Hall, Jabriya

SOME OF OUR WELL WISHERS

Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan

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Ramdas Nair

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Mohamed Ghouse

John Siman

Sherif

Ajee Varghese

Zubriya Hyder

Satish Sharma

Neelraj

Nikita Kohli

Rashidkhan

Hameed Rafeek

Radhakrishnan

R. Suman

Supin James

S. Saguber Ali

Abdul Kareem

Lt Col Mitali Madhumita, First gallantry award woman officer in Army

Lt Col MitaliMadhumita became India's first female army officer to win a Sena Medal of gallantry award for saving at least 19 lives during the February 2010 terrorist attack on the Indian embassy in Kabul. The Sena Medal is awarded to members of the Indian army, of all ranks, "for such individual acts of exceptional devotion to duty or courage as have special significance for the Army."

Lieutenant Colonel Madhumita went into the Indian embassy which had come under attack and rescued several injured civilians and army personnel from the debris. About nineteen people lost their lives in the 2010 Kabul embassy attack including seven Indians.
child actress of Indian cinema.

IFL - Association Team

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M.A. Asad Khan

Shantha Maria James

Anis Ahmad

Rumane

A.N. Natarajan

P. Senthil Kumar

Lakshmi Narayanan

Joseph Panicker

K. Mathi

Raja .G

D. Prabakar

Subbu

C. Lakhmanan

S. Durai

Pukal

M. Naga

Srinivasan

Murugan

G.N.S. Manian

Shibu

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A. Mariappan

Durairaj

Hari Laxmanan

N. Senthilkumar

Alaudeen

M. Annamalai

R. Ramesh

K.V.Swamy

Karthikeyan

S.R. Thangam

Mani

Abeenash

L. Perumal

Kanmani

M.Ravi

Rawther Gani

Panneer selvam

Shuji

Feroz Khan

Musthafa

Vijayapriya Ramanan

Priya Ambalavanan

Sunitha Suresh

Anitha

Padma Nagu

Saleeka Shahul

Samshul Huda

IFL - Founder Team

B. Elamaran

A.V. Murali Manohar

G. Rajasekar

Reavan

V.K. Periya Samy

..with them

N.C. Mohandoss

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Services

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Website : www.iflkuwait.com

Walks of Frontliners

Part 1 Book Release - Mr. P. Chidambaram

Part 2 book Release - Mr. T.N. Seshan

Part 3 Book Release - Actor Sarath Kumar

Part 4 Book Release - Director K. Balachandar

Part 5 Book Release - Director Visu

Part 6 Book Release - Mr. Thirunaukarasar

Momento to Mrs. Maneka at Part-7 Release

Felecitation to Director Bharathiraja at Part-8 Release

Part-9 Book Release - by Actor Vikram

Momento to Sri. MSV at Part 10 Release

Part 11 Book Release - Mr. Arun Shourie & Mr. Karti

Momento to Sri. Ilayaraja

Walks of Frontliners

Part 12 Book release - Mr. Shatrugan Sinha

Momento to Director Cheran

Part 13 Book Release - Dr. Kiran Bedi

Felecitation to Sri. Nalli

Part 14 Book Release - Mr. Joginder Singh I.P.S

Part 18 Book Release - Dr. Seetharaman

Part 15 Book Release - D.R.Karthekeyan IPS

Part 19 Book Release - Director Bhagyaraj

Part 16 Book Release - GopalaSwamy IAS

Part 20 Book Release - Mr. Salman Khurshid

Part 17 Book Release -
Justice Dr. AR. Lakshmanan & Dr. R. Seetharaman

Part 21 on Medical Achievers Release

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INDIAN FRONT LINERS

Motto

Indian Frontliners Service Organization, registered with Indian Embassy, Kuwait, was started in 1997 by Writer N.C.Mohandoss with service minded people, to join hands for serving the needy people; To Do Things that Count – For Others;

Indian Frontliners team consists of people from :

- different cultural background - from all ethnic, linguistic, religious and age groups.
- different walks of life – businessmen, industrialists, doctors, engineers, teachers, managers, office staff, technicians, semi-skilled workers, drivers, maids etc.
- different parts of India - from all states in India; from Metropolitan cities, towns and villages
- different economic strata – Millionaires, high-income, middle-income and low-income people

Indian Frontliners' helping hands have reached out to a wide spectrum of the needy person in the society. Indian Frontliners Association, working directly and through other social service organizations, have provided relief and assistance in the areas of Education, Health, Disaster relief, Old-age care, orphanage services, development of differently-abled persons, Animal care, social work & community welfare, rural development, environmental protection etc., in Kuwait,

Indian Frontliners have extended assistance to people in distress like stranded workers / maids, poor and sick labourers in need of medical attention, families of persons who died in Kuwait. Members of Indian Frontliners Team take part in campaigns, such as tree-planting etc organized by the Kuwait Volunteer Work Centre under the guidance of its Chairperson, Madam Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Indian Frontliners Books series, have been successful in showcasing the talents and achievements of prominent Indians in Kuwait. The varied themes covered have provided inspiration and motivation for a number of people to actively participate in the community service efforts of Indian Frontliners. Each book in the Indian Frontliners Book series was released by a prominent VIP in a glittering function arranged with sponsorship and participation by way of advertisement by various companies and organizations in Kuwait.

Indian Frontliners and YOU : Indian Frontliners believe that Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. Every contribution, whether big or small, makes a big difference to the life some person in need. We welcome you to Join Indian Frontliners and support our activities. Make your life a garland of kind deeds !!

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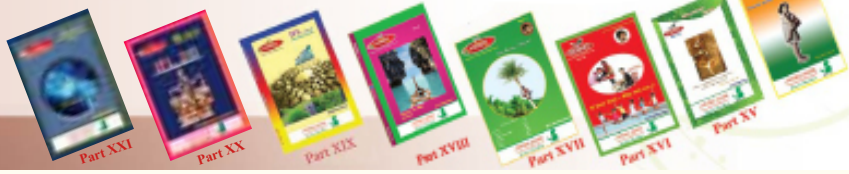

About the Author

N.C. Mohandoss as the Founder of INDIAN FRONTLINERS (IFL) a Service Organization registered with the Indian Embassy, Kuwait, has pioneered a number of social service activities and extended financial help to several orphanages, hospitals, senior citizen homes, poor students for their educational and also for the welfare of stranded Indian workers in Kuwait.

NCM has written 300 novels, more than 600 short stories, 23 novelettes, more than 3000 articles and 4 TV dramas. He writes on various themes - Social, Detective and on Love. He has to his credit more than 100 books published and his works have appeared in all leading Tamil magazines and newspapers. Yet he is very modest and self-effacing.

He intentionally refrains from all other time pass activities to devote his efforts solely to writing which started way back during his college days.

NCM attributes his inspiration to the popular "Thuglak" magazine and reveres "Saavi" who encouraged him to write more and more. His success is also due to the efforts of Mr. Ramesh of 'DinaMalar' and the constant support and guidance of his friend Mr. Manohar.

NCM gets his inspiration for writing from true incidents and people flock to him to narrate their tales and experiences requesting him to write about the same. This has been very popular with the readers and has evoked wide appreciation.

A simple man, born in an agricultural family, NCM hails from a remote village called Nambukuruchy in Tiruchi District, Tamil Nadu which still lacks the post office. His first work appeared in the Magazine of St. Joseph's College where he did his B.Sc. Then he steadily progressed towards penning short stories, novels etc.

From 1994 he is working for Kuwait National Petroleum Company. NCM feels a sense of pride in owning that his success is due to the support, patience and guidance of his wife ARULMOZHI, and their only daughter VINU, who correctly reads his mind and reflects his ambitions and aspirations in every way.

At the diamond jubilee of Anbu Paalam service organization function held on 4th Oct 2013 - N.C. Mohandoss was felicitated by Dr. A.P.J. Kalam for his community services with a Momento and Gold Medal.

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