

Chartered for Success

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MEET India's best-known anchorman. Until he descended on the scene, we thought that the deadpan way Doordarshan presented news was the way news should be presented. He changed it all with a professionalism that is hard to match. That's the president and chief executive officer of NDTV, Prannoy Roy, the big daddy of Indian television. So extraordinary has his imprint been that today there is bevy of television journalists modelled on the Roy-mode.

What would you think of a film personality who, in a nation that worships its cricketers and iconises its film stars, is a celebrity in his own right? You would possibly think that he



graduated from a film institute. Actually, no. Shekhar Kapur, the director of the heart-stopping movie *Masoom* and the award winning *Elizbeth* is the man over whom Hollywood swoons.

Once known as an investigative journalist, his exposes in the *Indian Express* set in motion the chain of events that brought down two national governments. You could disagree with his views but his crisp, analytical, no-nonsense writing, backed by a surfeit of authentic information, meant that S Gurumurthy was a person who could not be trifled with. So

enigmatic has his influence been that many believe that film director Mani Ratnam, in his movie Guru, wove actor R Madhavan's character around the work of this intrepid journalist.

He got into the hot seat when his father, an achiever extraordinary, died unexpectedly young, and he himself had hardly turned 30. Can a rookie rudder the professionals of the Aditya Birla group of companies, people asked. Today, nobody doubts the credentials of Kumar Mangalam Birla; widely regarded as one of India's top business leaders. He has gone from strength to strength making the Birla Group scale newer heights.



Would you fancy your chances of rising to become the head of an automobile major? That is, if you did not have the technical background or if it wasn't papa's business? Perhaps not. But R Seshasayee was made of sterner stuff. From internal audit to corporate planning to manufacturing and finally to managing directorship of Ashok Leyland Ltd, his climb has been simply meteoric.

Whenever the government or the stock exchange watchdog SEBI wants to set up a committee on any matter connected with finance, one of the first persons that it turns to is the suave, soft-spoken Y H Malegam, Chairman Emeritus of S B Billimoria & Co, part of Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, the big-four public accounting firm.

When you thought of the software industry, you always thought of him. The tech evangelist with the Elvis Presley looks, he built a bridge between geriatric

members of successive governments and the software industry. When he died at the impossibly young age of 38, in farflung Australia under mysterious circumstances, the who's who of the software industry lined up at his funeral. That was the charismatic Dewang Mehta, an institution in his own right.

An expert in strategy and innovation, he is the founding director of Tuck's Center for Global Leadership. The first Professor in Residence and Chief Innovation Consultant at General Electric, Vijay Govindarajan has been cited by *The London Times* as the top thought leader in strategy. As if that isn't enough accolade Business



Week voted him as the foremost amongst America's Business School professors.

He is the blue-eyed boy of the government. Widely consulted on a range of issues and a member of a slew of government advisory panels, including on financial sector and capital markets. Deepak Parekh is the grand old man of the Housing Finance sector, having chartered, as chairman, the life and times of the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC). When Satyam hit the road block in early 2009 following an unprecedented accounting scam it was to him that the national government turned to for help.

She is India's top woman banker. A flamboyant walk up the corporate ladder means she is within striking distance of cracking the glass ceiling at the HSBC Bank. Now its Country Head and Group General Manager, she could one day become its Chairperson. That would make her the first woman to do so. Meet Naina Lal Kidwai, the

CA outside their ring



K Rahman Khan, the Deputy Chairman of India's Upper House, Rajya Sabha, is a CA by qualification.



Rameshwar Thakur, Governor of Karnataka, gave up CA practice to embrace politics fulltime.



Ehsan Mani, ex-President of the International Cricket Council (ICC) is a CA by profession.



Ramani Bharadwaj, the popular music composer, was a practicing CA.



N K P Salve the man who brought the World Cup to India in 1987 was a CA.



Sanjay Subramaniam, renowned musician, is a qualified Chartered and Cost Accountant.

first Indian woman to graduate from the Harvard Business School and named by Fortune International as one of the 50 most powerful business women outside United States.

These are success stories without doubt. But why talk of them here, you might ask. Well, each one of them is a Chartered Accountant by qualification! A news anchor, a movie director, a journalist, a business tycoon, a corporate executive, a tax consultant, a software evangelist, a B-School professor, an institution builder and an international banker – all CAs – the sheer breadth of it is breath-taking! And the interesting part is that this is just the tip of the iceberg. There are more such achievers in the profession.

Pitch yourself to join that big league. Think of nothing less. You have already taken the first step by taking up chartered accountancy. Follow the next few steps methodically and success should be yours.

He was Different

CA from India and MBA from California, Dr Rangarajan (1946-97) gave up his family business to study medicine. An MD from the Madras Medical College he founded the Sundaram Medical Foundation.

