

*High  
Flyers  
50*

# GLOBAL ICON AWARDS 2024



GLOBAL RECOGNITION FOR BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

*High  
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50*

GLOBAL ICON  
AWARDS 2024





# Mr. Christopher German (USA)

## Fragrance Entrepreneur of the Year

A true alchemist of scent, Christopher German is the visionary founder, owner, and cosmetic chemist behind Evodia Fragrances—a brand redefining the art of fragrance through the seamless fusion of science, creativity, and sensory storytelling.

Christopher's journey into the world of fragrance is as unique as the scents he creates. With over a decade of experience as an actor and model, he developed a deep appreciation for the sensory elements that influence human perception. This passion

deepened during his five years as a clinical allergy specialist, where he gained firsthand knowledge of how the body interacts with environmental stimuli—particularly scent.

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Armed with dual Master's degrees in Forensic Science Biochemistry and Crime Scene Investigation from Nebraska Wesleyan, Christopher brings unmatched scientific precision to the fragrance world. His technical background sets him apart

as a fragrance formulator, allowing him to craft scents with unparalleled intricacy and intention.

Founded with the mission to capture memories and emotions in every bottle,

Evodia Fragrances has quickly emerged as a boutique powerhouse in the beauty and lifestyle space. Under Christopher's leadership, the brand has collaborated with artisans, perfumers, and designers to develop signature scents that reflect

individuality and personal expression.

Evodia's rapid rise includes standout partnerships with Major League Indoor Soccer (MLIS) and custom scent creations for cast members of RuPaul's Drag







Race, as well as a strong presence in the luxury gifting and influencer markets. These collaborations highlight the brand's commitment to authenticity and artistic innovation.

Christopher's entrepreneurial vision has been widely celebrated. Evodia Fragrances won 1st Place in the Omaha Choice Awards for Beauty Supply Store in 2021 and 2022,

and clinched the overall category in 2023. The brand has also been featured on the reality series *The Blox* and was recently recognized in *Marquis Who's Who in America*, further cementing its reputation as a rising star in the fragrance industry.

But for Christopher, this is only the beginning. With an imaginative flair often likened to a "Willy Wonka of Fragrances," he

dreams of building a whimsical, immersive fragrance empire—where consumers can interact with scent in magical, unexpected ways. From bespoke perfumes to custom candles, his goal is to transform fragrance into a multi-sensory experience that blends the wonder of discovery with the precision of chemistry.

With passion, purpose, and an unwavering drive to innovate, Christopher German is well on his way to earning his self-proclaimed title of "Fragrance King"—and leaving behind a legacy of scent that endures far beyond the bottle.







# Mr. Umang Gandechea (United Kingdom)

## Excellence in International Student Services

In today's rapidly evolving world of international education, where global mobility, cross-cultural integration, and student well-being have become top priorities, few individuals stand out as clearly and consistently as Umang Gandechea. As the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Londonist DMC, Umang has emerged as a defining force in the international student accommodation industry—an industry increasingly central to the global academic journey. What sets him apart is not just his entrepreneurial success, but his ability to bridge continents, cultures, and communities through a deeply human-centric business approach.

Since co-founding Londonist DMC in 2013, Umang has built the company from the ground up, transforming it from a small entrepreneurial dream into a global enterprise. Today, Londonist DMC is recognized as one of the most trusted and fastest-growing brands in the international student housing sector, with operations spanning London, Istanbul, Shanghai, and multiple cities across China, and with over £40 million in turnover annually. It is a remarkable story of resilience, foresight, and transformational leadership.

From its inception, Londonist's mission has been clear: to provide international students with not just accommodation, but a home away from home, complete with quality, security, convenience, and

community. Under Umang's stewardship, this mission has evolved into a movement—one that champions premium student living experiences supported by dedicated services and seamless integration into a new cultural environment. With more than 2,000 rooms, 50 premium residences, and over 5,000 students housed, Londonist DMC now stands at the forefront of redefining what student living can and should be in a globalized academic world.

Born with an innate curiosity and driven by a passion for global connectivity, Umang's

leadership style is a unique blend of strategic ambition and cultural sensitivity. Armed with a degree in International Business and fluent in Mandarin Chinese, he possesses a rare combination of business acumen and intercultural intelligence. His multilingual capabilities and nuanced understanding of both Eastern and Western business dynamics have been pivotal in expanding Londonist's reach into complex international markets, particularly China, where building trust, understanding cultural values, and establishing long-term partnerships are essential to success.



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Beyond the boardroom, Umang is passionate about personal growth, cultural exchange, and community engagement.





The decision to enter the Chinese market in 2018 was a bold and visionary move—one that many would have considered daunting due to regulatory, cultural, and competitive challenges. But for Umang, it was an opportunity to expand the company's mission and deepen its global footprint. Today, Londonist operates 10 offices across China, including four in Shanghai, and works closely with leading education agencies, universities, and stakeholders to support the growing number of Chinese students seeking quality education and housing abroad.

This expansion was not just a business milestone—it marked a philosophical shift for Londonist, reinforcing its belief that student housing is not just about space, but about experience, identity, and belonging. Umang has ensured that every Londonist student is not only given a comfortable place to live, but also an opportunity to thrive, connect, and build lifelong memories in a new cultural landscape.

In recognition of his groundbreaking contributions, Umang was featured in the Hurun UK Under35s 2023, one of the most prestigious acknowledgments for young leaders shaping the future of business and society. This recognition is a testament to his innovative thinking, his unwavering dedication to student welfare, and his role in advancing global education and mobility.

What makes Umang's journey even more compelling is his deeply rooted leadership philosophy, distilled into what he calls the "Three C's": Choice, Chance, and Change. According to him, success begins with making thoughtful choices, embracing the chances life offers, and accepting that







change is both inevitable and essential. This mindset, embedded across the Londonist culture, has empowered his team to think creatively, act decisively, and remain agile in a fast-paced and uncertain global environment.

Internally, Umang is known as a people-first leader—one who believes in nurturing talent, creating inclusive workspaces, and fostering a spirit of collaboration. He actively mentors emerging leaders within his organization, champions gender equity, and encourages cross-functional learning. Londonist's workplace culture today reflects his values: transparent, diverse, high-performing, and driven by purpose. Employees are encouraged to innovate, take ownership, and align their personal goals with the company's broader mission.

Beyond the boardroom, Umang is an avid traveler and a passionate advocate for cultural dialogue and lifelong learning. His travels across Asia, Europe, and the Middle East have not only informed his worldview but have also enriched his personal values—empathy, adaptability, and curiosity. Particularly fond of his journeys through China, he often speaks of how these experiences shaped his approach to leadership, community building, and cross-cultural understanding.

Interestingly, Umang's childhood dream was not to become a business leader, but a Bollywood film star—a dream that, though never pursued professionally, still lingers in his personality. His stage presence, storytelling ability, and natural charisma are often noted by peers and partners alike. These qualities have helped him not only in public speaking and brand-building but also

in forming meaningful relationships across industries and regions.

As the public face of Londonist DMC, Umang continues to lead global expansion efforts, forge new strategic alliances, and explore innovation in digital services and community engagement. He remains committed to sustainability, technological integration, and creating smarter, more connected student residences that anticipate future needs.

Looking ahead, his vision is to transform Londonist into a truly global student lifestyle brand—one that goes beyond accommodation to include experiences, events, networking, and support systems for international students across the world. He envisions a future where every international student, regardless of origin, can access quality housing, cultural support, and professional opportunities as they pursue education abroad.

In an era increasingly defined by borders, barriers, and disconnection, Umang Gandecha represents a new kind of leader: global in ambition, local in understanding, and deeply human in approach. His journey—marked by humility, vision, and resilience—is not just a success story, but an invitation to dream bigger, think deeper, and lead with purpose.

Through Londonist DMC and beyond, Umang continues to build bridges between nations, expand the horizons of young people, and shape the future of education and mobility on a global scale. His legacy, still in the making, is one of transformation—of lives, industries, and ideas.







# Mr. Thomas Papathanasiou (Greece)

## Outstanding Achievement in Insurance Innovation and Leadership

A visionary entrepreneur and dynamic leader, Thomas Papathanasiou is redefining the future of the insurance industry through innovation, strategy, and a deep commitment to digital transformation.

Thomas holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the prestigious Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, followed by a postgraduate degree in International Business and Management from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, awarded with a full academic scholarship. He is also a certified holder of the LIMRA AMTC diploma in Agency Management, and an esteemed member of GAMA Hellas, a non-profit organization supporting leadership development in the insurance market.

With a diverse professional background, Thomas has excelled in roles ranging from business consultant in subsidized programs to media professional—as a journalist, TV presenter, radio producer, and magazine editor. This multifaceted experience has shaped his unique perspective on communication, management, and innovation.

In 2017, Thomas took on a leadership role at INTERAMERICAN as Unit Manager (Sales Director). His strategic insight and managerial expertise have driven outstanding sales performance and long-lasting client relationships, earning him recognition as one of the most effective leaders in the industry.

Driven by entrepreneurial ambition, Thomas co-founded Greek Insurance Leaders in 2019 with his partner and wife, Anna Nikiforidou. The startup, specializing in digital insurance mediation, emerged as a transformative force—especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Recognizing the urgent need for digitalization, Thomas taught himself programming and created advanced online platforms that cut the insurance purchase process from four hours to just thirty minutes. These tools not only enhanced the customer journey but also equipped insurance professionals across Europe with the technology to thrive in a rapidly evolving market.

Under his leadership, Greek Insurance Leaders achieved an extraordinary 350% growth in new sales over four years, propelled by a strong culture of innovation and digital-first strategy. This success has earned recognition from various organizations in Greece and established the company as a pioneer in the insurtech space.

Thomas's achievements have not gone unnoticed. In 2023, he was named one of the Top 40 Entrepreneurs Under 40 in Southeast Europe by Business Elite Awards and was a finalist in the “Manager of the Year” Awards in Greece in the Start-up Companies category.

His co-founder and wife, Anna Nikiforidou, has also earned distinction as a Diamond

Insurance Agent and serves as a Member of the Communication Committee of MCC MDRT HELLAS, further cementing their combined impact on the industry.

Together, they continue to shape the future of insurance in Europe—championing innovation, excellence, and forward-thinking leadership.



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# Ms. Tanja Schjellerup (Denmark)

## Leadership in Online Education

Tanja Schjellerup is a pioneering force in the world of digital education. As the Founder of Skolen Online, she has redefined how students in Denmark and abroad access and engage with primary education. With a strong foundation in educational philosophy—earning her M.Sc. from Aarhus University—Tanja’s journey has been marked by curiosity, compassion, and a bold vision to create inclusive, flexible, and high-quality online learning environments.

Since 2005, Tanja has worked across a broad spectrum of educational and professional roles—from teaching students of all ages to leading teams in sales and logistics. Her eclectic experience has shaped a versatile and empathetic leadership style. She has lived and worked abroad, trained as a teacher online (well before remote learning became mainstream), and earned an Executive MBA from Quantic School of Business & Technology (USA). In 2019, she was certified in 5L Education Diplomacy Leadership by Childhood Education International (USA).

The idea for Skolen Online was born as early as 2010, but it began to take shape in 2018 and was launched publicly in September 2019. Initially focused on students living abroad and those who are homeschooled, the platform quickly gained traction and credibility—receiving early recognition from the Alexandra Institute and the Danish Technological Institute.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Skolen Online emerged as a vital solution for remote education in Denmark. The platform’s growth has been remarkable:

- 1900% increase in student enrollments between 2020 and 2021
- 150% growth in 2022, with a 266% increase in municipal collaborations
- Recognition as SDG Company by JCI Stockholm
- Winner of Entrepreneur of the Year 2021 by Business Faxe
- Featured on TV2 Øst, World Leaders Magazine, Dagbladet Sjælland, and Danish national radio (P1 & P4)
- International awards and speaking invitations, including Education 2.0 Conference Dubai and EBAN Annual Congress Ireland

Skolen Online has not only excelled academically but has also championed inclusivity. In 2023, the school began offering mother tongue and cultural lessons for Ukrainian refugee children—supported by Rotary Furesø, Widex, and Furesø Municipality.

Most recently, in 2023, Tanja was named Top Woman Entrepreneur in Education & Learning by Great Companies and continues to lead Skolen Online into new ventures, including its own youth education

program and international EU-backed initiatives like Project Fortissimo.

Tanja’s mission is rooted in creating educational systems that embrace both technology and humanity, making learning more accessible, adaptable, and empowering for children worldwide.



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# Ms. Natnicha Srichamnarn (United Kingdom)

## Trailblazer in Health and Wellness

Natnicha Srichamnarn is a dynamic entrepreneur whose journey from Thailand to the United Kingdom is a shining example of passion, perseverance, and purpose. As the Founder of Nicha Group Ltd, Natnicha has carved a distinct space in the global health and wellness industry, driven by a lifelong commitment to holistic living and empowering others to lead healthier, more balanced lives.

Natnicha's entrepreneurial roots trace back to her teenage years, when she began helping at her mother's beauty center. What began as support soon blossomed into a deep-seated passion for health, wellness, and self-care. Fuelled by curiosity and compassion, she went on to earn a degree in Psychology—equipping her with the emotional intelligence and understanding needed to truly connect with people and their wellness needs.

Her academic path then led her to London, where she pursued an MBA in Marketing at the University of Sunderland. This experience laid the strategic groundwork for her business future, giving her both the tools and confidence to lead with clarity and creativity.

In 2020, during the height of the global pandemic, Natnicha courageously launched Nicha Group Ltd, a health and wellness enterprise born out of love, vision, and a desire to uplift. Specializing in high-quality wellness products and collaborations with



top Australian healthcare manufacturers, Nicha Group has grown into a trusted brand, recognized for its excellence and authenticity.

Under Natnicha's leadership, the company has earned multiple awards and finalist recognitions, and in 2023, she herself was named a finalist for the Entrepreneur Award by UK Women of the Future, one of the UK's most prestigious platforms celebrating female talent.

Natnicha's mission goes beyond business—she is deeply committed to promoting well-being from the inside out. She is currently

training as a Tai Chi instructor, further demonstrating her holistic approach and desire to explore every avenue that supports physical, mental, and spiritual health.

With a heart-led philosophy and an entrepreneurial spirit, Natnicha Srichamnarn is inspiring a global movement of positivity, wellness, and self-discovery. Her journey is proof that when passion meets purpose, remarkable transformation follows—not only for the entrepreneur, but for the world they serve.

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# Mr. Neeraj Arora (United Kingdom)

## Global Media Icon

Neeraj Arora, Founder and CEO of NNA Consultants Ltd, is a pioneering force in global media monetisation and storytelling, with over 30 years of trailblazing experience in the industry. A strategic visionary, Neeraj spent two decades at the helm of International Business at Sony Pictures Networks, where he spearheaded business expansion, innovation, and digital transformation across over 100 countries.

His media journey began in 1996 and quickly ascended when he migrated to the UK in 1998 to lead the global distribution of Zee TV, making history as one of the first executives to take an Indian media brand international. He went on to play a key role in launching and scaling Zee, B4U, and Sony into powerful global brands, building strong commercial foundations and impactful narratives for South Asian content on the world stage.

Neeraj holds an Economics degree from the University of Allahabad, along with a diploma in Marketing and Business Administration. His career started humbly in Kanpur as a door-to-door salesman before joining Asian Paints, one of India's most innovative companies. These early years instilled in him the values of perseverance, adaptability, and customer-centric thinking that continue to define his leadership style.

Neeraj's extensive contributions have been widely recognized. In 2002, he was inducted into The International

Association of Business Leaders (USA) and later served as a jury member for the Association of International Broadcasting Awards (2014–2015). His leadership legacy includes board-level roles across multiple international media ventures, and most notably, his role in Sony Pictures Networks between 2004 and 2024.

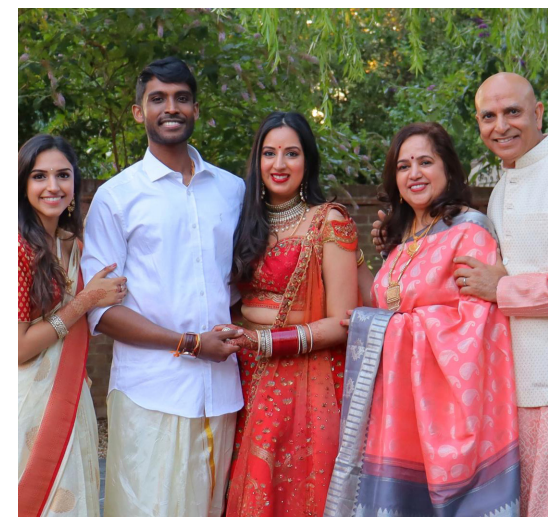
A passionate mentor, Neeraj is now focused on media-tech advisory through NNACL, where he consults on cutting-edge ventures. Among them is the GEC Space City project, a visionary UK initiative in space real estate and habitats. Neeraj and NNACL are shaping the Media in Space Strategy for Project Acorn, the programme's ambitious first phase involving the symbolic launch of a foundation stone into outer space.

Beyond media, Neeraj is actively involved in food and hospitality ventures through Gourmet Associates Ltd, and supports Eternity, a promising WedTech startup led by his daughter Anshika Arora. He and his wife Neha also remain dedicated to education and philanthropy, contributing to institutions like United College of Engineering & Research, and Punjabi Public School near his hometown of Allahabad, India.

Spiritually inclined and socially conscious, Neeraj supports causes in healthcare, wellness, and fitness through the Art of Living Foundation. He is admired by peers for embodying the values of work-

life balance, and cherishes time with his family—including his daughters Isha and Anshika, son-in-law Sarananan, and their beloved pet Kiko.

Neeraj Arora is a global citizen, mentor, media innovator, and an inspiration to future generations—with a legacy that transcends borders, industries, and now, even gravity.



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# Mr. Jake Santosh Shamjhu (Australia)

## Entrepreneurial Spirit Award

Jake Santosh Shamjhu's story is one of grit, resilience, and extraordinary determination. Born and raised in Mauritius, Jake grew up in humble surroundings with his loving parents in what he describes as an "Iron House." Despite the modest conditions,

the family was filled with love and hope. However, life took a tragic turn when Jake lost both his parents—his mother to breast cancer in 2007, and his father in an accident in 2009—just as he turned 18.

Faced with overwhelming challenges at a young age, Jake chose to turn his pain into purpose. After completing high school, he tried his hand at various jobs—cleaning, receptionist, clerk, waiter, sales assistant, mechanic, plumber, electrician—before



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His first sponsored employee is now a Permanent Resident of Australia, a testament to Jake's commitment to mentorship and sustainable business growth.





discovering his true passion: barbering. He quickly realized that while no job is easy, success lies in dedication and passion. Determined to master the craft, Jake trained outside his village of Triolet, managing several shops before opening his own and hiring two employees within the very first month.

With his eyes set on greater horizons, Jake made the bold decision to leave Mauritius for Australia—a country no one in his family had ever flown to. Facing cultural and personal uncertainty, he left with a deep sense of faith and a belief that both his parents and Australia would guide and protect him. He arrived in Perth in 2012, and has since proudly called it home.

Today, Jake is the successful owner of two thriving barbershops:

- Riseley Square Barbershop, Applecross (est. 2018)
- Market Street Barbershop, Fremantle (est. 2022)

Under his visionary leadership, the business has grown from 2 to 15 staff members in

under three years—creating opportunities for both local talents and overseas workers. A former sponsored employee himself, Jake now pays it forward by sponsoring skilled barbers from abroad. His first sponsored employee is now a Permanent Resident of Australia, a testament to Jake's commitment to mentorship and sustainable business growth.







His journey has been widely celebrated:

- Young Entrepreneur of the Year – Western Australia (2021)
- Achievement Award – Personal & Professional Excellence (2022)
- Best Customer Service of the Year – State Level (2023)
- Hall of Fame Inductee
- Top 40 Under 40 Entrepreneur – National Level, Australia (2023)
- World Top Leading Leaders – International Recognition (2024), awarded at Parliament House, London

A proud Australian citizen, devoted husband to Rachna, and loving father to daughter Mishti, Jake also began building his family home the same year all these milestones took place—proving that when you're driven by passion and purpose, nothing is impossible.

With humility and excitement, Jake looks forward to attending the High Flyers 50 Global Icon Awards 2024 in Mumbai—an honor he considers both a privilege and a celebration of his incredible journey.









# Mr. Maksim Sonin (USA)

Award Title: Outstanding Achievement in Energy Transition

Maksim Sonin is a globally celebrated energy strategist and visionary, recognized for his transformative leadership in the global energy transition. With over 15 years of international experience, Maksim has overseen the execution of capital projects exceeding \$14 billion, spanning upstream, midstream, and downstream sectors. His impact extends across five continents, where he has steered GDP-influencing initiatives that foster economic resilience, industrial growth, and sustainable innovation.

A true pioneer of low-carbon industrial transformation, Maksim has held executive leadership roles and served on the boards of globally respected organizations, where he has led groundbreaking solutions that address pressing climate, energy, and humanitarian challenges. Among his most acclaimed accomplishments is the development of the world's largest ammonia and fertilizer plants, globally benchmarked for their scale, efficiency, and environmental stewardship. These projects stand as exemplary models for industrial decarbonization, enabling reduced emissions and capital optimization in energy-intensive sectors.

Maksim's strategic foresight and execution excellence have positioned him as a thought leader in the movement toward a cleaner, more sustainable energy future. His insights have been sought at premier global platforms such as S&P Global, Reuters, and

Nikkei BP, while his perspectives have been featured in Forbes, Inc., and other leading international media outlets.

Dedicated not only to innovation but also to knowledge transfer, Maksim has mentored over 300 professionals globally, fostering the next generation of energy and infrastructure leaders. His commitment to empowering talent reflects his broader mission of shaping a resilient and inclusive energy ecosystem.

Maksim holds an MS in Management from Stanford University as a Sloan Fellow, a PhD in Engineering, and an MS in Finance, credentials that underpin his rare ability to merge technical, financial, and policy dimensions in complex energy systems.

Beyond his professional excellence, Maksim is a devoted husband and father of three, driven by a deep personal commitment to building a better world for future generations. His holistic approach—balancing commercial success, environmental responsibility, and social equity—continues to influence the global energy agenda.

For his extraordinary leadership, visionary execution, and impactful contributions to sustainable energy systems, Maksim Sonin is honored with the Outstanding Achievement in Energy Transition award at the High Flyers 50 Global Icon Awards 2024.

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# Ms. Andressa Freires (Brazil)

## Innovative Leader in Data Science

A proud Afro-Indigenous Latina from the outskirts of Brazil, Andressa Freires is a trailblazing scientist, educator, and advocate for inclusive innovation. As a Data Science Specialist and Tech Lead, she has seamlessly combined technical expertise with a deep commitment to social impact.

Andressa is the founder of diversiData, an initiative that champions diversity in tech through community engagement, mentorship, and education. Her academic credentials include a specialization in Data Science from the University of Michigan, Deep Learning certification from DeepLearning.ai, and a specialization in Diversity Management from PUC/SP.

An influential speaker on ethics, artificial intelligence, data science, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), she has graced stages across the globe. Andressa also serves as a member of the Global Shapers Community of the World Economic Forum and UNESCO's Women 4 Ethical AI, playing a vital role in shaping global conversations around responsible technology.

Throughout her career, Andressa has received widespread recognition for her leadership and contributions to the tech ecosystem, including:

- Winner of the Cultural Exchange Program to England – ETEC
- 28-time "Inspiring Colleague" Awardee at PicPay

- Globant Women Awards Highlight – Rising Star Category
- Globant Digital Disruptors Awards – Culture & Agility Igniter
- Young Leaders Program Scholar – Instituto Anga
- Women in Tech 2022 LATAM Prize – Best Ally
- Invited Specialist in Data Science by the Brazilian Ministry of Labour, contributing to the official recognition of Data Science as a profession in the national labor classification
- 1st Place – 2023 Ada Lovelace Special Recognition Award for Women in ICT, WomenTech Network
- Valuable Young Leader 2023 – Anga Institute & MIT Sloan Review Brazil
- 100% Scholarship Recipient – Management Specialization Program, University of Ohio (2025 cohort)
- Top 6 Finalist – Most Impactful Initiative Award, Women in Tech LATAM, chosen from over 50,000 initiatives

Andressa continues to be a force for ethical, inclusive, and groundbreaking innovation in technology. Her work not only transforms data into actionable insight but also empowers underrepresented communities to thrive in the digital age.

Connect with Andressa:

@dressaFREIRES | @diversi.data

LinkedIn | www.andressaFREIRES.com



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## Mr. Nikhil Jathar (USA)

Dynamic Innovator of the Year

A bold innovator and trailblazer in the tech space, Nikhil Jathar is the visionary founder of AvanSaber, a company that has been revolutionizing e-commerce and enterprise software solutions since its inception in 2014.

Nikhil earned his Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science from the Vishwakarma Institute of Technology, Pune. He began his career at Accenture, where he played a key role from 2007 to 2013, contributing significantly to SAP ERP implementations across India and the United States. His strategic insights and technical expertise enabled the successful execution of large-scale transformation projects for major utility companies.

In 2014, Nikhil transitioned into entrepreneurship, launching two mobile app startups—one of which was acquired by a Hong Kong-listed gaming company. His ability to build robust architectures, APIs, and algorithms, especially in inventory optimization and order routing, became the backbone of his ventures.

As the founder of AvanSaber, Nikhil has fostered a culture of continuous innovation. Under his leadership, the company launched flagship products like ZapInventory and AutoBotWriter, an AI-powered content generation platform. AvanSaber has achieved multi-million dollar revenues, delivering game-changing solutions in sectors ranging from supply chain to social media management and utility consulting.

The company's achievements have earned international recognition, including the prestigious G2 High Performer Winter 2024 Award and several other accolades. Nikhil's leadership continues to drive AvanSaber's growth and impact across global markets.

Beyond his business success, Nikhil is a passionate supporter of social causes, regularly participating in fundraising and charity initiatives, reflecting his deep-rooted sense of community and purpose.

Always looking toward the future, Nikhil is currently exploring the integration of

Virtual Reality (VR) into stock management systems, further reinforcing his commitment to innovation and shaping the next frontier in the SaaS industry.

With his entrepreneurial drive, technological prowess, and commitment to social good, Nikhil Jathar stands out as a dynamic force redefining the digital economy.

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**Nikhil Jathar:**  
**Steering AvanSaber Technologies**  
**to New Frontiers in Tech**  
[www.avansaber.com](http://www.avansaber.com)









# Ms. Shairee Malhotra (India)

## Emerging Leader in Foreign Policy

Shairee Malhotra is a distinguished voice in Indian foreign policy, currently serving as Associate Fellow – Europe at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), India's premier policy think tank which partners with the Ministry of External Affairs to curate the Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship foreign policy conference.

Shairee's expertise lies in EU-India relations, Indian diplomacy with key European countries such as France and the Nordics, and broader political and strategic developments across Europe. Her career has spanned both New Delhi and Brussels, where she gained valuable experience at the European External Action Service (EEAS)—the EU's official foreign policy arm—where she was selected from a competitive global pool with a success rate of only 1%. She has also worked with the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) in Brussels, engaging with high-level European policymaking firsthand.

As Coordinator of the T20 Taskforce on Reformed Multilateralism under India's G20 Presidency and Co-Chair of the Think20 engagement group under Brazil's G20 Presidency, Shairee continues to contribute to shaping global governance. Recognised as a Top 40 under 40 EU-India Leader by the Europe India Centre for Business and Industry (EICBI), she is also a founding member of WICCI's India-EU Business Council, and was featured in Business

Talkz's Top Indian Voices on LinkedIn.

With over 120 published works, her insights have been featured in leading global outlets such as Forbes, The Independent, Haaretz, Hindustan Times, The Economic Times, Business Standard, LSE, CFR, The Print, and Brussels Times. She is also a regular foreign policy commentator on Indian national television.

At ORF, Shairee has conceptualised and led high-impact dialogues, including the India-France Track 1.5 Dialogue, and moderated key sessions at platforms like the Raisina Dialogue, India-Russia Track 2 Dialogue, India-Armenia Dialogue, and Spain-India Forum. Her contributions also include participation in the NATO-India Public Diplomacy Dialogue held at NATO Headquarters.

Born in Ahmedabad and beginning her foreign policy journey at Mumbai-based Gateway House, Shairee moved to Brussels to pursue her passion, witnessing firsthand the evolution of Europe's political discourse through critical milestones such as the migration crisis, Brexit, terrorist attacks, and EU-China policy shifts. Today, she continues her impactful work from New Delhi, advancing India-Europe relations through research, dialogue, and strategic insight.

With academic credentials from leading British universities in International Relations, Shairee seamlessly integrates

her theoretical grounding with practical policy experience, helping bridge two influential world regions—India and Europe. Her journey exemplifies the rise of a new generation of strategic thinkers, equipped to navigate and shape the changing dynamics of global diplomacy.



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**As Coordinator of the T20 Taskforce on Reformed Multilateralism under India's G20 Presidency and Co-Chair of the Think20 engagement group under Brazil's G20 Presidency**







# Ms. Victoria Ajoku (United Kingdom)

## Cultural Preservation and Artistic Revivalist

Victoria Ajoku is a creative entrepreneur, performer, and cultural preservationist, best known as the Founder of Fan The Glory With Tori—a unique initiative dedicated to reviving the critically endangered craft of traditional fan making in the United Kingdom. Established in 2019, her venture serves as a vibrant response to the alarming status of fan making, now listed as a “Critically Endangered Craft” in the UK.

Through her business, Victoria offers inclusive and accessible fan-making workshops both in person and online, reaching a wide demographic across ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Her mission is clear: to revitalize an ancient art form, foster cross-

cultural appreciation, and preserve a rich heritage for future generations.

Rooted in her educational background in Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies and a Master’s in Performance and Creative Research, Victoria’s interest in fans grew through both academic exploration and personal experiences—collecting hand fans across Europe and studying their use as performance props on stage and screen.

Fan The Glory With Tori uniquely blends artisan craftsmanship with educational, therapeutic, and community engagement, offering fan-making sessions in diverse spaces—from corporate team-building events and schools to libraries, care homes,

and community centers. Victoria also crafts bespoke, handmade merchandise, sold through an online boutique and at markets, art fairs, and trade events.

Her efforts are not only about art—they are about empowerment, accessibility, and cultural storytelling. Fan The Glory With Tori is both a celebration and a safeguard for traditional hand skills, standing as a beacon for cultural revival in modern times.

As a passionate advocate for artistic heritage, Victoria Ajoku is “fanning the way to freedom”—one handcrafted creation at a time—ensuring the art of fan making soars once again across the UK and beyond.

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*We don't win until our customers say we win.*

—Mary Barra, CEO at General Motors

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