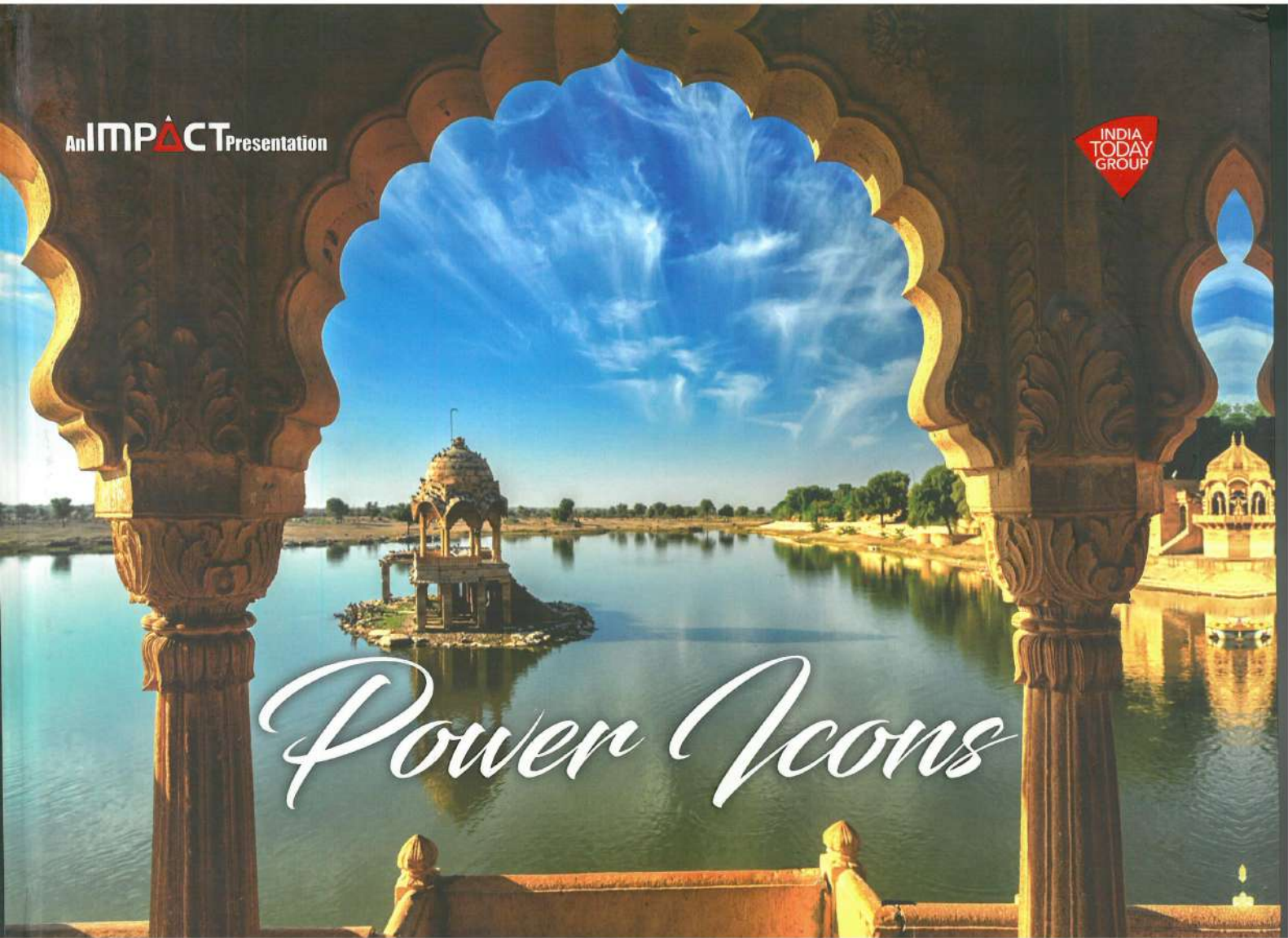


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A SPARKLING GEM

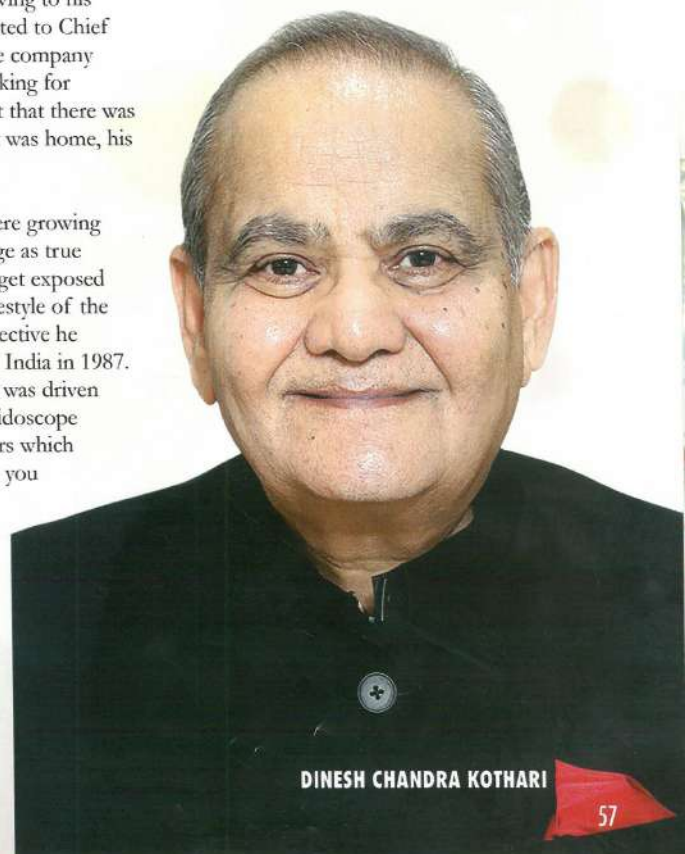
An Enriching Dive Into The Life of A Sparkling Gem, A Trailblazer In The Field Of Business And A Visionary Par Excellence In The Field Of Education

A foundation laid underneath with a philanthropic heart to give back to the town that fulfilled his dreams and that became a strong foundation for several others to achieve their dreams, in the form Delhi Public School Jodhpur, a premier learning and educational hub and the man behind understanding the needs of children and addressing them with great humility is Mr Dinesh Chandra Kothari. He was born as the destiny's child on 14th March 1950, the same year when India became a Republic. After earning his bachelor's in the late sixties, he moved away from home to do Chartered Accountancy and later to work in Mumbai. Soon after, he got married to Neelam Kothari, a woman he believes he owes his success to.

He says that neither his grandfather nor his father had any background in business, but were public servants committed to serving the government for the greater good. He inherited from them a focus on the bigger picture, and they instilled in him resilience and commitment. He learned the importance of persevering and not giving up in the face of challenges, which helped him during his training as a Chartered Accountant. After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in 1972 he joined ICICI Ltd Mumbai affiliated to World Bank then. After working there for a couple of years, he further took a leap of faith and moved to UAE in 1974 to partner in business the largest

diversified Conglomerates, the Bukhatir Investment Group, Sharjah as Finance Manager. Owing to his dedication and precision, he was promoted to Chief Executive Officer within 4 years and the company progressed multi-fold. Consistently working for thirteen years in Bukhatir Group, he felt that there was something harkening him back and that was home, his motherland, his country India.

His two children, Amit and Priyanka were growing and he introspected that they can emerge as true and worthy individuals only when they get exposed to the culture, heritage, customs and lifestyle of the country they belong to. With this perspective he decided to move back to his homeland, India in 1987. Mr Kothari's decision to move to India was driven by his belief that the world is your kaleidoscope and the varying combinations of colours which at every succeeding moment present to you are the exquisitely adjusted pictures of your ever-moving thoughts. He wanted his family to experience that kaleidoscope here in India. He felt Delhi was the perfect place then, for his children and their education. After a few months, he started his own corporate advisory and investment banking business based out of both India and Dubai.



DINESH CHANDRA KOTHARI



While Delhi was his home now, for work he was a traveller, employing his talents in financial advisory and chartered accounting. But what was missing was a spark, a purpose.

Intellectuals have never been known to be satisfied until they realise their true potential and the same was the case with Mr Dinesh Kothari. He felt a calling and wanted to pursue it. Being ardent and aspiring at heart, the biggest influence in his life was of his grandfather Shri Shugan Chandra Kothari, who was a teacher by vocation. Hailing from such a humble background, having received a calling to fulfil his purpose, he decided to set up Delhi Public School Jodhpur, a not-for-profit school, in the memory of his grandfather in the heart of his hometown Jodhpur in 1998. And then there was no looking back.

Delhi Public School Jodhpur became a name to reckon with, with its humble beginning of 280 students to more than 5000 now. Indeed, a lot of patience and planning goes into chiselling and moulding lives. Nonetheless, there was a quest that still remained with Mr Dinesh Kothari, the need to transform lives, the need to facilitate learning of Indian Curriculum in the UAE. Inspired by the success of Delhi Public School Jodhpur, he found UAE calling him again, this time with a newer vision and grasp on life. He decided to return to the Emirates and set up another school, with the same purpose and same dream, to provide quality education to the children of the expatriates residing in UAE. Thus began the process of setting up schools in UAE with Delhi Private School Sharjah in 2000 and Delhi Private School Dubai in 2003,

followed by Victory Heights Primary School in 2013 and South View School in 2018, with British Curriculum. His son Amit has played a pivotal role in this endeavour and has worked profoundly for the success of the school. And the latest in the learning tree is Delhi Private School Ras Al Khaimah in 2021 affiliated to CBSE. Delhi Private School brand is one of Mr Kothari's success stories. Nurturing responsible global citizen and transforming lives of over 16000 children, Mr Kothari with his perseverance and unflinching efforts proved that growth can know no bounds if good intentions lie at its core. Just like a master-gardener cultivates his land keeping it free from weeds, and growing the flowers and fruits that he requires, so has Mr Kothari with his noble intentions tended the education institutions he started, by cultivating them into perfect places for young minds.

Consciously aware of the biggest challenges he faced in the early days of his entrepreneurial journey being the lack of infrastructure and resources in the education sector, he decided to overcome it. He realised that to make a meaningful impact, he would have to invest heavily in infrastructure, technology and faculty to provide world-class education to students in India. He also believes that education sector demands well-trained teachers and to address this concern he heavily invests in Human Resource and the Capacity Building Programmes geared towards training teachers. Rightly said by him: 'At the end of the day, a good school is shaped by the quality of its teachers not by buildings or playgrounds. Eventually a school will be known by the faculty it has.'

Mr Kothari consistently talks about futuristic schools and for that he wishes to set up Centres of Discovery for students. He passionately believes that we need more Labs in schools for Engineering, Technology and the Sciences – but we also need them, and perhaps more, for the breadth of the Creative Arts world. These labs will give students opportunities in technical education so that students can invent, and be creative, using any number of technologies of the modern world.

The demand for traditional professions like doctors, lawyers, and accountants remains consistent. He believes that the world needs more than just these professions now and the need for thinkers, inventors, and creatives is greater than ever. All professions must integrate specialisation with creativity to fuel the engines of our new world and create an innovative and impactful society.

His life in corporate has also taught him that in addition to knowledge and books, management skills are also essential in today's world. This means that our children must develop various soft skills that are necessary for emotional engagement and intelligence. He believes that these qualities and skills are the hallmark of a great educational institution.

Exceptional schools are those that cultivate these necessary skills. Although fancy facilities and amenities may seem impressive, they do not make a school outstanding. What matters the most is the spirit of the school, as it is people who build and

change the world, not bricks and mortar. This is where Mr Kothari's vision of a school aligns with today's need of what a school should look like.

Over the years, Mr Kothari has invested heavily in the education sector, with focus on providing quality education at affordable prices. He has established several educational institutions. Through these institutions he tirelessly works to create progress and demonstrate how remarkable CBSE education can be when appropriate leadership, philosophy, and teachers are invested in, and the interests and welfare of the students are given priority. Placing children at the heart of every facet

of school life and addressing their requirements and aspirations, in addition to establishing strong connections with the community and families served, results in everything falling into place.

Having achieved such benchmarks, Mr Kothari doesn't skip a chance to quote inspiring and touching poetry when he speaks; he is an aficionado of poetry. Owing to his love and inclination towards reading, he is best chosen for his role as a Trustee of the Ibaadat Foundation, a Charitable Trust established under the Indian Trusts Act. The Ibaadat Foundation's humble efforts are to encourage and provide best possible assistance and support to poets and artistes who keep the flame of poetry burning bright. It was his disposition to facilitate an evening for the





people of his hometown with the famous poet Gopal Das Neeraj in Delhi Public School Jodhpur, which till date echoes in every heart that witnessed his passionate poetry. Besides his prolific poetic filigree, Mr Kothari is a voracious reader who has read numerous books of varied genres nevertheless his favourite read by far has been, Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom. And that is what gives him a knack for blending in with any age group. With the millennials, he talks of goals and the bigger picture, with the younger generations he talks of evolution and the need for change and with the older generation he talks of theology, metaphysics and spirituality. Seldom are humans ready to evolve as times change, now 73, Mr Kothari believes what might be relevant at one time may be completely irrelevant at another.

With his lady luck, Mrs Neelam Kothari, he feels the journey of life became smooth and enjoyable. Along with his two children, son, Amit Kothari born in 1974, is an MBA from Cambridge University. After completing his Masters, he joined the world's largest cement company Holcim in Zurich. Following this he joined Interstar advisory, a family company responsible for group's education enterprise in the UAE. Mr Amit Kothari is the Executive Director of Interstar and MD of South View School. He is also on the Board of Director of JK White cement in the UAE. He is the proud parent of his three children Mira, Avni and Arjun. Mr Kothari's daughter Priyanka is a graduate in (English Honours) and LLB from Delhi University. For further education, she went to the USA to pursue LLM from George Washington

University and attained the NYSBA membership which made her eligible to work for a Law Firm in the USA. Currently she is settled in New York with her family and is nurturing her little angel, Anika. Mr Kothari finds bliss in his four grandchildren. Family, for him, is his biggest strength and he holds values to the core. He says, "Knowledge changes, but values do not", and as a grandfather, he ensures that his grandchildren too learn these values of humility and benevolence along with myriad hues of Indian culture and festivals that will keep them rooted to the country, giving them the vision of life.

To meet a visionary in life is rare, to meet a visionary who is in touch with his roots is rarer. Those who've had the fortune of meeting Mr Dinesh Kothari have had the

chance of meeting the latter. With humility and gentleness, despite his considerable accomplishments and his view that wealth becomes less important as one grows older, he seems to be a beacon of hope in the increasingly profit-driven education world. He believes that education is the key to success and that every individual has the potential to achieve greatness if they are provided with the right opportunities and resources. All the educational institutions established by him are not just centres of quality education but hubs where values of family structure, love for country, culture, traditions and respect for all religions are instilled so that the children radiate the sparkle of a precious stone.

'Diamonds truly are made under pressure', a quote he's found to have used as a mantra in his life. While his life story is truly inspiring, his philanthropic efforts are life-changing. His contributions to the education sector have transformed the lives of countless students. Those who could not afford to go to the school were imparted education at no cost in The Shiksha Kendra of Delhi Public School Jodhpur, are now filled with gratitude in honour of Mr Kothari. Along with educating children, their mother's too were empowered and given lessons on basic sustenance and were given sewing machines to learn and earn. In 2018 Delhi Public School Jodhpur was privileged to be chosen as the rendezvous for the noble initiative to provide cricket equipment, facilities and coaching to the underprivileged children all over the world under the banner, The Shyam Bhatia Cricket for Care Programme which was an endeavour of Mr Kothari to commemorate the spirit

of sports and to promote the extremely popular sport Cricket in the glorious city of Jodhpur.

Be it donations, work of charity or act of benevolence, Mr Kothari stands tall. Most recently when the world was petrified because of pandemic, in 2021, he, along with a few other eminent NRRs, donated 40 MT liquid medical oxygen and 272 oxygen concentrators to the hospitals of his hometown, Jodhpur. At a time when humanity pleaded for help at every door, Mr Kothari stepped forward to answer the call. This gesture of Mr Kothari is just a dainty mention of his selfless service to humanity, which he himself is shy of mentioning.

Nevertheless, good work is never hidden. Awards serve as both a validation of one's hard work and talent, as well as a motivation to continue pushing oneself towards excellence. Mr Kothari's contributions to the education sector have been recognised globally, and he has received numerous awards and accolades for his efforts. He was awarded the prestigious "Entrepreneur of the Year" award by Ernst & Young in 2010. With the prestigious Mother Teresa award in his stride for excellence in the field of education and Entrepreneurship in 2013, he was named among the Top 10 Most Influential Entrepreneurs in India' by the Economic Times. He was declared the 'Global Indian of the Year' in 2020-21 in Asia-Middle East-Africa Summit. His commitment to social causes and environment cannot be denied and the World Book of Records London is the testimony. He carries these responsibilities and accolades

gracefully and manages to remain grounded and humble despite his immense success and achievements.

Mr Dinesh Chandra Kothari is a true visionary and pioneering entrepreneur and his life is the story of passion and resilience. He inspires the youth of today to dare to dream and have goals and ambition with a vision.

As he always iterates, "You need to have the angst within you – and that drives you to do more". We salute such stars of humanity!

