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## Chairman, CII, Southern Region

I am glad to know that IWN Puducherry had taken the initiative of recognizing Women Achievers and is releasing the first Compendium of Women Achievers of IWN, Puducherry. I also appreciate the idea of releasing the Compendium at the Women's Leadership Conference at Puducherry, on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2014. This will immensely benefit in learning some of the out of the box and innovative ideas which have propelled these women to emerge successful in their chosen fields.

I am of the firm view that recognizing and encouraging these chosen achievers will motivate other women to emulate the achievers and script their own success stories. I am also very impressed to know that IWN Puducherry has very carefully drafted the three categories for recognition, a robust process for identifying and recognizing the achievers from amongst women entrepreneurs, employees and students.



In my view such initiatives by IWN will definitely motivate the women achievers and also inspire other women as Role Models.

I wish them all success in all their endeavours.

**Navas Meeran**

*Chairman*

*CII Southern Region*

*Managing Director, Eastern Condiments Pvt. Ltd.*

# Foreword

## Chairperson IWN, Southern Region

It gives me great pleasure to write the foreword for the IWN – CII Women Entrepreneurs Compendium being released on August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014 in Puducherry.

The talk & the need of the hour is Women Leadership across the world. The relevance in India is even more significant as increasing numbers of young girls & women are pursuing higher education & entering the work force in Government, Industry, Academics, Services, Consulting etc. On the economic platform the country is still very young and has the potential to evolve into an economic power house in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The human resource base of the country is the second largest in the world, of which Women constitute almost 500 million. Transforming even 25-30% of this number and creating 300 – 400 million new jobs in the country will immensely contribute to the overall GDP & undoubtedly have the biggest impact in modern economic history.



Yes opportunities do come with challenges especially in developing countries, especially when we are in a knowledge driven global arena – quality of education, acquiring the right skill set, choosing career options, learning & building one's career, maintaining the work - life balance, keeping up with information & technology, ensuring the professional outlook, etc are quite highly demanding. It is here that the Confederation of Indian Industry, Southern Region took the initiative to Launch the **INDIAN WOMEN NETWORK** in January 2013 in Chennai – the first of its kind in the country.

IWN has been founded on a strong framework to engage & enable Career women, Entrepreneurs & Students in three fundamental focus areas - Learning & Development, Wellbeing, Policy & Advocacy. IWN chapters have been launched in all the southern state capitals & in tier II cities of Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Trivandrum, Vijayawada, Vishakapatnam, etc. Several conferences, workshops, webinars & members sessions have been conducted in the region in a short span of 18 months.

I strongly feel that such initiatives will bring about all-round growth for enabling Diversity & Inclusiveness not only in the work environment, but in society at large.

I whole heartedly congratulate the IWN, PUDUCHERRY TEAM for their consistent support & contribution towards building gender sensitive organizations & women entrepreneurs for the growth of Puducherry and our country.

Best Wishes

**Suchitra Ella**

*Jt MD Bharat Biotech*

*Chairperson*

*Indian Women Network – CII*

## Chairperson, IWN, Puducherry

It was in June, 2013 that the Indian Women Network (IWN) was launched in Puducherry and it is a matter of great satisfaction today to have so many talented women as part of our network. As most of us know, the Indian Women Network launched by the CII, is a special forum for career women, women entrepreneurs and Final Year women students at the threshold of their career and looking beyond their classrooms, in order to create gender parity for women in the Indian Industry.

It comes as no surprise to us when we constantly read of girls out performing boys in most of the academic exams, and yet there are still precious few women who have taken this academic achievement to higher levels. There are several challenges that the woman faces at each stage in her life contributing to this big drop. The IWN has become THE platform in Puducherry to enable career women to come together, share and learn from each other. It is heartening to see that IWN at Puducherry has definitely created a feeling of comradeship and sisterhood among the women here. We believe that all these initiatives will fuel the participation and continuation of the Indian women in the workforce adding value to their organisations. Also the increasing representation of women will definitely be a key factor for our economic growth and development of our nation.



Since we frequently find that women tend to underplay and be very modest about their achievements, we decided to bring out a Compendium of Women Achievers in Puducherry in three different categories namely Women Entrepreneurs, Women Employees and Women Students, in order to recognize, encourage and celebrate the chosen achievers, give a boost to their confidence and to motivate other women to emulate the achievers and script their own success stories.

We constituted three nomination committees for the three different categories of achievers and the committee members have reached out to a wide cross section of institutions and professionals to gather the nominations for the Compendium. Thereafter we constituted a Selection Committee comprising of the following eminent personalities of Puducherry:

1. Dr. Asha – Retd. Professor & Head of the Department of O&G, JIPMER, Puducherry
2. Dr. Lalitha Nair – Retd. HoD, Department of English, Bharathidasan College & Honorary Principal of Shri Patcheappane School for the Hearing Impaired (SPSHI), Puducherry.
3. Mr. Syed Sajjadh Ali, Managing Director, Eaton's Bussmann Business & Chairman, CII, Puducherry
4. Mr. K. Amarnath, Vice President, Hotel Surguru & Immediate Past Chairman, CII, Puducherry

The Selection Committee did a commendable job of doing a fair assessment and shortlisting the profiles to go into the Compendium, from a large list of deserving candidates.

My thanks to Suchitra Ella for her continuous support during the infancy period of IWN and always being a source of encouragement. Before I end, I must mention that the trigger for the Compendium came from Dr. Nalini Ranganathan and would like to thank her for her immense support in the entire process of preparing the Compendium. To all the nomination committee members for their tremendous efforts in reaching out to various organisations, institutions and women entrepreneurs; To Madhu Vasanthi of CII, Chennai my appreciation for her suggestions and inputs and for always being there for us when we needed her help. I would also like to appreciate Sujatha Ramesh from the Integra Team for her systematic and close follow ups on the Compendium, to ensure there were no loose ends, and Shankar Ganguli, also of the Integra Corporate Office, for re-creating each résumé and bringing the stories to life. To the Integra Production team for their excellent design and and to those members of the IWN, whose work behind the scenes made this Compendium possible, a big vote of thanks.

**Anu Sriram**

*Chairwoman, IWN Puducherry &  
Co-Founder & Jt. Managing Director,  
Integra Software Services Pvt. Ltd.*

# Foreword

## Convenor, Learning & Development Task Force, IWN, Puducherry

### HOW IT ALL HAPPENED ...

It was a lively IWN-PDY meeting at Integra when Anu threw up the question: "What do we plan for our women's day celebration this year"? Though it was mentioned as a key agenda point, all of us contemplated – silently. Hesitantly, I said "Can we come up with a compendium of women achievers in Puducherry"? The idea was an instant hit and everybody, especially Anu sounded very positive. This was somewhere in February 2014. In the same meeting, we finalized that we release a Compendium on Women Achievers from three different panels; (1) Women Entrepreneurs, (2) Career Women and (3) Women Students.



From then on, we moved steadily towards our 'goal'. Several meetings, deliberations, guidelines, emails, letters – as I go through them now, it is amazing to see how women can convert aspirations into accomplishments. I really, really deem it as my privilege to thank the lovely, committed team members, the IWN Compendium-Panel members.

These members worked relentlessly; meeting individuals, institution heads and industrialists; leaving no stones unturned in getting nominations from students, career women and entrepreneurs who are achievers in their own right. As a team we agreed to get nominations for all the three categories based on a few criteria: family background, academic excellence, contribution for a social cause, personal challenges such as physical disability, marital status, years of Inception, ownership, turnover of the Company etc. From around 58 nominations we received totally, we are happy to share with you the success stories of nearly 32 women who dared to be different. The Selection Committee acknowledged and appreciated our initiative.

This compendium could be the first of its kind in Puducherry wherein we have strived to highlight the triumph of women from across economic, educational and religious backgrounds. Women truly deprived – not necessarily only in terms of financial aspects but especially in terms of opportunities who stood their grounds when situation demanded... this compendium unfolds several such interesting instances and life messages which we hope will keep the 'young minds ignited'.

I take this opportunity to thank each and every member of IWN Puducherry for sparing their valuable time and resources to make the compendium a possibility, and to Integra Software Services Pvt. Ltd. and Bioville Farms Pvt. Ltd. for sponsoring the Compendium.

**Dr. R. NALINI**

*Convenor, Learning & Development Task Force*

*Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Pondicherry University*



# Nominations Committee

## Women Entrepreneurs Panel



**Lakshmi Srikanth (Coordinator)**  
Proprietress, KLAS

### Panel Members

Anamika Saraogi, True Cartons.  
C Banushree, Proprietor, ARTC and BVC General Trading.  
V Kalpana Jayaram, Prisms India Pvt Ltd.  
Kavitha Amarnath, Hotel Surguru.  
Mira Suresh, Managing Partner, Bharani Enterprises (New Born).  
S Prabha, Managing Director, The Flavors India (P) Ltd.

## Career Women Panel



**Nikila Rani (Coordinator)**  
Managing Director,  
Suresoft Systems Pvt. Ltd.

### Panel Members

S Gayathri, Sr. Executive, Learning & Development,  
Integra Software Services.  
D Shanmugavadhana, Proprietress, Sri Swamy Enterprises.  
K Umamaheswari, HR Executive–ER, Integra Software Services.

## Women Students Panel



**A. Bharathy (Coordinator)**  
Assistant Professor,  
Community college

### Panel Members

Nalini Saravanan, Proprietress, AV Sattva Pvt Ltd.  
E Radhiga, Associate Director, QMS, Chemin C&I Pvt. Ltd.  
Shiny Rajesh, Senior Team Lead, Project Management,  
Integra Software Services.  
Vaisnavi Pragadesh, Key Account Executive,  
Integra Software Services.







Proprietress,  
PJP Industries & Managing  
Partner Hawiyya Industries,  
Puducherry

At first glance, the sawdust pulverizing industry seems an unlikely profession for a Post Graduate with an Honours diploma in Software engineering.

But this is where A. Ameena, hailing from a family of entrepreneurs, made her mark as a woman entrepreneur. Ms. Ameena owns one industrial unit – PJP Industries and is Managing Partner in another: Firdaus Hawiyya Industries.

Even as a child, Ameena had wanted to be a successful entrepreneur and she realized her cherished dream when she was only 27. Deeply interested in machinery she would quickly grasp the intricacies of machines and modify them to yield higher output with less power consumption. This ability gave her the confidence to take up varied responsibilities. This success gave her the confidence that she could achieve anything. She soon found herself managing Purchase, Marketing, Accounts and Administration of her factory – all the hallmarks of a good start-up entrepreneur! As a highly motivated and target driven entrepreneur Ameena was prepared to work 24\*7 and she was always available for calls from customers and associates. She was also blessed to have the full support of her family.

Ameena started PJP Industries in 1998. In 2010 she went on and expanded the operations to start a sister concern Firdaus Hawiyya Industries in which she and her daughter are the Partners, with Ameena holding 75 per cent majority.

Like all entrepreneurs her early years were full of struggle. The long journey of thirteen years had plenty of hurdles including gender bias. She first received training at the Small Industries Service Institute of the Government of Puducherry and then worked for seven years in her father's pulverizing factory. Ameena then started her own pulverizing plant. Obtaining Government permission in itself took several months because the officials refused to take her seriously. The fact that she wanted to open a sawdust pulverizing plant, involving heavy machinery, appeared rather a castle in the air to the Officials. They were skeptical and the competition was intense, but so was Ameena's grit and determination. "Actually this field is uncommon for a woman". Undeterred, Ameena overcame all the obstacles in her path and emerged successful. She was able to strike a deal with Godrej Consumer Products Ltd., a household insecticide company and secured a contract to supply pulverized sawdust to the Godrej Group of companies.

Working with Godrej has turned out to be a boon for Ameena. The Company recognized her knowledge and abilities and decided to support at all levels of operations. Godrej also helps her with Technical and Managerial advice. Ameena stands tall with her achievements, true to the words, "No dream is ever too big and no dreamer is ever too small".

“NO DREAM  
IS EVER TOO  
BIG; NO  
DREAMER  
EVER TOO  
SMALL”



Founder & Managing  
Director, CAOS  
APPARELS PVT.LTD

She was born in Kolkata, and grew up in Puducherry.

Puducherry is a melting pot of people, cultures and ideals, fuelled by a spiritual ambience. Inspired by this rich environment and after a ten year sojourn in Italy, Anjali started her apparel manufacturing company in Puducherry.

Motivated by a strong inner desire to impact social change she started her journey in 2002. In a very short span of time she realized that social mission alone would not make the impact that she aspired for. She did not want an enterprise that was fragile, allergic to the concept of profit and intrinsically unsustainable.

Anjali wanted to create an enterprise that aimed to create jobs, to develop its people, to make a significant and positive contribution to the society and environment that it springs from and serves. There is no business in the world that does not depend on society, its people and environment to succeed.

She wanted the success of her Company to be measured not only by the bottomline in the balance sheet but by the scale of the positive impact it has made on lives.

Today, 13 years later, CAOS having embraced Fair Trade practices and supporting Organic producer groups has grown into a dynamic enterprise with a high level of responsibility, accountability and integrity.

Anjali's Company employs 184 workers and she is proud to say that 80 per cent of them are women who hail from unskilled semi-skilled backgrounds and have been empowered through CAOS' vocational training programs. She values the welfare and wellbeing of her employees by providing them with a safe, clean and dignified work place.

Instead of aiming to become an island of success Anjali put her efforts in contributing to an ocean of change.

“AN OCEAN OF CHANGE, RATHER  
THAN AN ISLAND OF SUCCESS”



Franchisee, Groom India  
Salon and Spa Pvt. Ltd –  
Naturals Unisex Salon and  
Spa, Puducherry

A path breaking entrepreneur in the beauty business in Puducherry, Arthi gave the city its first ever unisex salon. Armed with a B.Sc in Nutrition & Dietetics, Arthi set up 'Groom India Salon and Spa Pvt. Ltd. - Naturals Unisex Salon and Spa' seven years ago and has never looked back since.

Opening the first unisex salon in a conservative city like Puducherry, was a major challenge. Getting women to walk into a salon where there would be male customers as well, was another. The Puducherry salon was the eighth Naturals salon when awareness about the unisex concept was non-existent in the conservative city.

Arthi is justifiably proud of the fact that today more than three fourths of her clients are women who are very comfortable and happy with the salon's services. Arthi observes that women today have begun to appreciate the need for grooming and see it as a direct reflection of their confidence level. As a true entrepreneur, what sets Arthi's adrenaline pumping is the sight of a happy client walking out with a smile on her face after a makeover. 'We, at Naturals thrive on the WOW factor. Its especially gladdening to see a first timer thrilled after a haircut or a smiling bride after her makeup', says Arthi.

Arthi rates her major milestones as the opening of the second Naturals salon in February 2010 and third salon in October 2011. Of the more than 30 women employees in the salons quite a few had joined as freshers from rural backgrounds. Today they have transformed into L3 stylists with a handsome salary and a profound change in their lifestyles.

Arthi's Role Model is Mr. C. K. Kumaravel, the co-Founder of Naturals. Firmly committed to the empowerment of women, Mr. Kumaravel's goal is to open 3000 salons with 1000 women entrepreneurs and providing job opportunities for 50,000 people.

For an entrepreneur in the beauty business, Arthi's message is breathtakingly simple – for a woman there is no better cosmetic than the smile on her face!

“IT'S A 'BEAUTIFUL' BUSINESS”



Founder, Vidhya Niketan  
Higher Secondary School

With Masters Degrees in English, Psychology and Education, K.Bala Padma Rani started a play school with her partner V. Aruna in 1997 with just two students. That little play school has metamorphosed 15 years later into a Higher Secondary School, the Vidhya Niketan Higher Secondary School in Puducherry. Resources were limited in the early years and so was any form of support. Competition was intense, but Rani dared to dream big.

Today, Vidhya Niketan has established itself as one of the reputed schools in Puducherry which imparts truly student friendly education. Rani and Aruna had wanted to bring about a positive change in the process of educating students. Their efforts were recognized by Wipro through the Company's "Applying Thoughts in School" program. Wipro sponsored the "School Transformation Programme" and the management and the teaching staff were given training and hand holding for four years. An expert team from "Educational Initiatives" of Ahmedabad – a leading institution working for transforming education, carried out this task.

Vidhya Niketan has launched a child friendly curriculum with continuous assessment pattern and activity based class room teaching almost six years ago. When the Government introduced the Samacheer curriculum, Rani and her team found it easy as the teachers were already trained in a student-friendly system. Vidhya Niketan has been imparting holistic education that develops academic skills, soft skills and life skills. In her own words, Rani tells us that, "when even the highly reputed schools were struggling to understand and adapt themselves to the new changes, we in Vidhya Niketan have gone a long way in implementing them".

Rani is a role model for today's career woman because she has the courage of her conviction. Being passionate about transforming today's classrooms so that they create individuals with high level of cognitive, academic, emotional and spiritual Intelligence, she had to weather a lot of criticism. However, she has demonstrated that a child should be treated as an individual and an environment has to be created where the child learns inner discipline through role modeling. It is the duty of the adults around them to manifest and demonstrate mature, sensible behavior. 'So if we want to see our children to grow up as successful, happy and good individuals, all the adults in the child's life should also take the responsibility of becoming better than what they are and hence work for their personal transformation and discover the power of love and empathy'. To Rani, financial success is subordinate to the flowering of the children holistically.

Rani and her partner Aruna have faced many tough challenges in developing a play school into Higher Secondary School. With minimal financial resources, they could procure their own small piece of land near Reddiarpalyam and construct the campus where the school is presently functioning. They next procured around two acres of land near Villianur to build a bigger campus with sports facilities. Vidhya Niketan has trained the students for the Board Exams very well and had produced excellent results in all the tenth board exams so far.

Rani is inspired by J.Krishnamurthy, who said that a school should take the responsibility of helping a child flower both "inwardly and outwardly". Rani wants to realize Krishnamurthy's vision through Vidya Niketan.

“TOWARDS  
HOLISTIC  
FLOWERING OF  
CHILDREN”





Proprietress, KLAS

Lakshmi Srikanth, homemaker, spiritually grounded, happily married, a mother of two, found an opportunity to enter the world of entrepreneurship with the support and guidance of her husband. A science graduate from Pondicherry University's first batch and an alumni of St. Joseph of Cluny, Lawspet, Lakshmi has been the proprietor of KLAS, a plastic injection moulding manufacturing unit for fifteen years. Lakshmi is proud to acknowledge the role of her husband, A.Srikanth also a Puducherrian, and a technically qualified man, as the brain behind KLAS.

Coming from a large joint family, the proprietress of KLAS found her task challenging initially, and her first major challenge which she successfully met and overcame, with the help of her husband, was her interaction with the banks.

Her key achievement has been to mould her employees as part of one big family where views and dissent can be freely shared. This made for a team striving in the same direction with dedication and full involvement. She achieved success with her amiable approach. Scrupulous about adhering to Government rules and regulations, she inculcated the same discipline among her employees.

Lakshmi Srikanth is proud of her ability to have emerged as a successful women entrepreneur, coming as she does from a joint family; it is especially satisfying for her to have made it good in a male dominated industry.

One major milestone Lakshmi always looks back on with satisfaction is the way she and her husband faced the recession of 2008. With foresight and planning, they had seen it coming, they had taken right advice from the right people and were so well prepared to face it, that they actually reported a profit during that difficult year. Lakshmi credits proper planning and proactive approach as the path to success.

Lakshmi Srikanth believes in imbibing the best from the various women she comes across in various walks of life and therefore she does not hold any particular individual as her role model.

Her Life Message? 'Opportunity may come upon you unawares but your inner voice will always alert you to it. So, always listen to your inner voice and especially so if times are hard'.

“IMBIBE THE BEST FROM  
ALL WOMEN”



Owner, Elle Boutique,  
Puducherry

Madhu Laxman Mahtani is an 'up by the bootstraps' kind of entrepreneur who has proved that with grit and gumption, one can make it successfully even in the so-called men's domain of business.

A Commerce Graduate, Madhu runs 'Elle Boutique' which holds the franchisees for such Brand names as Metro Shoes, Biba Apparels, Gini & Jony.

In her 15 years of entrepreneurial experience she has had to overcome many challenges especially in the initial years. Acceptance in a male dominated society was the first challenge which she overcame by proving her capability. This was possible with lots of multi-tasking while switching roles constantly between a homemaker and a commercial path-breaker.

Her key achievement, she believes, was entering the business of franchising, property development and also the fashion business, entirely on her own steam, with her own modest savings. She now owns six units in a period of ten years which speaks volumes about her entrepreneurial ability.

Madhu attributes her success to her passion, dedication, courage, focus and team work. "Thinking from the heart naturally comes to a woman which helps to take people along. I perceived challenges in a different perspective and did not give up easily" says Madhu when asked what makes her tick. She is unafraid of taking risks and she says, "I had pooled in all my savings and risked everything in every venture that I started without taking any monetary assistance or loans either from my family or from the banks".

Madhu describes the major milestones in her business career as "successfully bringing major brands like Metro Shoes, Biba Apparels, Gini and Jony to a tier-three city at my own risk and assuring success for the same by risking my own capital". Getting into the business of property development which has always been the foray of men, is another crucial breakthrough.

Interestingly enough, Madhu's role model is not one or two individual super achievers but 'every woman in every field starting with her mother who inculcated great values in her ten children, her teachers who were living examples of multi-tasking, and finally all the women who have proved their efficiency, hard-work, sincerity, reliability and honesty.

Madhu's Life's Message is that "Women are born with supernatural qualities and we need to recognize this quality in us and break the myth that we are born to be only home makers". Madhu believes that women are emotionally strong, excellent managers, have an eye for detail, team spirit, soft nature and are persistent in their undertakings and ventures. She says that women are born fighters who are humble when successful and who share the credit with their families. Women can strike the right balance between home and a career. She ends with saying "WOMAN GIVES BIRTH TO A MAN. PROUD TO BE A WOMAN".

“WOMAN  
GIVES BIRTH  
TO A MAN.  
PROUD TO BE A  
WOMAN”



Proprietress, Kosh Innovations

Nalini Kamra started Kosh Innovations six years ago, with one employee, in the garage at her home. Today she has a team of 35 direct and indirect employees and an area of 10,000 sq. feet of her own with an annual turnover of around Rs. 25 million. An ISO 9000:2008 certified company for the last three years, Kosh Innovations manufactures innovative and ecofriendly packaging, for Industry specific needs. They provide customized protective wear-on for the industrial, hospitality and healthcare sectors. Their customers range from electronic companies, plastics goods manufacturers, chemical manufacturing units, the automobile industry, pharmaceuticals organization, hospitals and householders.

Nalini sees herself as a "Momtrepreneur" having to manage her business and her family. Her children were very small when she started the business and she owes a lot to her supportive and understanding family.

Like most entrepreneurs, she faced many financial challenges in the early days of her business. With a start-up capital of just Rs.5000, Nalini is proud that she has never had to take a loan so far and Kosh Innovations remains completely self-sufficient to this day.

The other challenge she faced was as a North Indian in Puducherry to communicate with her Tamil speaking employees. Commencing with sign language she and her employees have now got used to each others' languages and it is now a lot easier to work together.

Nalini's key factors of success are lots of patience, passion, hard work, and consistent strategic focus towards her vision. She emphasizes the need to continuously identify, develop, and retain talent at every level and grooming her workforce to support growth and expansion opportunities.

Kosh Innovations crossed some major milestones when they started direct supplies to organizations like WOIL, IFB, BYD etc.

Nalini's role model is Steve Jobs. 'He has inspired me to be lifetime innovative, patient and learn to adjust with various conditions and circumstances. One more extremely important characteristic, which had inspired me, was his primary aim, which was customer satisfaction' says Nalini.

Nalini's take on life is to "tie in your life with your goals and dreams....follow them, they know the way and they will show you the way".

Indian Women Network believes this can be the way to achieve success without stress, to enjoy not only the destination but the journey as well.

“LET YOUR  
GOALS AND  
DREAMS  
SHOW YOU THE  
WAY”





Managing Director,  
THE FLAVORS INDIA (P) LTD.,  
Puducherry

A Post Graduate in Science, S.Prabha who heads THE FLAVORS INDIA (P) LTD started her entrepreneurial journey 16 years ago.

The initial days were challenging indeed – understanding business in its real terms; interacting with male colleagues, meeting government officials, guiding and motivating her staff and workers, rapport with customers and suppliers..... she had been forced by circumstances into the life of an entrepreneur in 1998 when she did not know even the basics of business. Business was an ocean for her and if she had to survive, she had to swim. And swim she did, not only keeping her head above water, but conquering the waves of challenges coming her way. She graciously acknowledges the support of her staff that helped her get a hold on the business within a short time.

Prabha rates her key achievement as improving the sales of the company every year, by winning and sustaining the trust of the customers and maintaining good labour relationships while treating the staff and labour as one big family – which they reciprocated!

Her key Success factors are: 'keep everything simple and respect the opinion of others'.

The major milestones in Prabha's entrepreneurial journey have been the honour bestowed on her by the Government of Puducherry for good industrial relations, consecutively for 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Prabha's role model is her father the Late Mr.R.Bramanandam, whose dedication, sincerity, hard work, excellent network, wise handling of labour relations, and above all, his human touch in all his work, are qualities she cherishes and follows. Prabha fondly remembers her father's human touch in all his work which earned him the love and respect of all who came in touch with him.

The hallmark of a successful person is humility and Prabha epitomizes this in her life message when she states that given an opportunity, everyone will be successful. She says "Getting a chance does not mean I am more intelligent or more successful than others. We should always remember that every one might face difficult situations at one point of time or other, so we should try to balance success and failure on equal terms".

Through her success, Prabha has proved that women can successfully manage business and family as she says "I thoroughly enjoy being a woman and an entrepreneur".

“THE 'FLAVOUR' OF SUCCESS”



Managing Director, Hasan Associates Private Limited & The Star Cars Pvt Ltd., Puducherry

An enterprising, determined hard working entrepreneur, Puducherry born Wahitha Shajahan did her schooling in Good Shepherd Convent, graduated in Commerce from the prestigious Stella Maris College, and fulfilled her ambition to study abroad by earning an MBA from the University of Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

She and her husband Mr. Shajahan come from an illustrious and highly respected political family for decades in Puducherry.

Wahitha entered her family automobile business, M/s M.O. Hassan Kuthoos Maricar Pvt Ltd., more prominently known as **M.O.H** in Puducherry, which was then a Franchisee for big names like Hindustan Motors, Bajaj Auto and Mahindras' group.

In 2002 Wahitha set up "**Hasan Associates Private Limited**", to handle the dealership for Honda scooters and motor cycles, spearheading the marketing, administrative and financial functions of the company. The next logical step for this enterprising lady was to take up the dealership for Volkswagen passenger cars through her new Company, **The Star Cars Pvt LTD**.

An entrepreneur with a keen eye for new opportunities, Wahitha had earlier set up Hasan Associates in 1995 for handling Sales and Service for Photocopier Machines for Ricoh India Ltd., for various districts. Soon, Hassan Associates was also handling Software Development with the Government Institutions in Puducherry.

Wahitha and her team visualized a growing need for high quality, trained professionals and logically enough Hasan Associates now entered the IT Training Industry as a Franchisee for the 'Indian Institute of Hardware Technology' (IIHT) training manpower on International affiliated courses in Hardware, Software and Networking. They also successful placed their students with IT giants like Wipro, HCL and IBM in Puducherry and Bangalore.

For this hard working, enterprising woman entrepreneur the icing on the cake is probably the creation of her brainchild, the '**HASAN Associates Educational Trust**' in 2006 through which she has started a franchisee of **KIDZEE BLOOMING BIRD**. The Motto of the school is "Learn To Learn" where every child is treated as an individual. KIDZEE believes in helping children learn by themselves, by the play way methodology. KIDZEE has 150 children and the school has won many awards. For three consecutive years the school has been acclaimed successively as **number one School** in the Southern Region and had also received two national awards for the best Pre-primary school.

“ENTREPRENEUR WITH KEEN  
EYE FOR OPPORTUNITIES”



Sr. Associate / CSR & ISW  
for Shasun Pharmaceuticals

S.Anbarasi, Sr. Associate (CSR & ISW) for Shasun Pharmaceuticals with fifteen years work experience behind her, is extremely committed to social causes; is a highly reliable, effective interface between her Company and the community at large.

Anbarasi has organized several community service programs that promote and improve corporate-community relations; she has contributed to the social and economic development of the community through self-help groups (SHGs) and has developed a number of women entrepreneurs. Within the Company, she has worked on employee development and training programs to develop the skills of all workers. She has contributed to the productivity of her Company by reducing absenteeism among the staff through counselling. Being a senior and experienced woman employee, Anabarasi played an important role in creating the 'Women Forum' in her Organization. To her credit, she has counselled many women colleagues to overcome their personal problems, even going the extra mile by visiting their homes for counselling sessions. She has been actively involved in developmental programs for women and youth including health programs.

Anbarasi works not only with the employees, but also with their families. She had created 'SHE' clubs for the wives of the male employees, helping the 'homemakers' to manifest their inherent talent. She involves them in social service like distributing books and stationery to the street children, food to the poor on festivals etc. The children of the employees loved the summer camps she organized for them, creating wonderful opportunities for the children to explore and manifest their budding talent. Anbarasi rewarded not only the children of the employees, but also other children in the community for achieving good results in the exams which has been appreciated.

Not merely tapping the resources of the company for CSR activities, she took personal interest to help needy individuals by referring them to the right agencies, where they could receive help for treating their ailments or could get aid for their disability or could get an educational sponsor. The insurance services which she does by helping the employees or their dependents to reach the right enlisted hospitals or coordinating with the insurance company for getting medical claims settled in a timely manner is highly appreciated by the employees, especially when she is ready to attend to such emergency calls any time.

“COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY”



Head, Dept. of Electrical  
and Electronics Engineering  
Sri Manakula Vinayagar  
Engineering College,  
Madagadipet, Puducherry

Teaching has rightly been recognized as a noble profession and Dr.S.Anbumalar embodies this attribute. She is a Professor and the Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering of Sri Manakula Vinayagar Engineering College, Madagadipet.

As one of the senior-most faculty members in her institution, with over twenty-one years' experience, Dr.S.Anbumalar has many achievements to her credit. A Distinction holder in both her B.E and M.E courses, Dr. Anbumalar received the Ramasamy Padayachhiyar merit scholarship for academic excellence. As a Professor she has received Merit awards for producing 100% results.

A highly respected academic, Dr. Anbumalar has published several research papers in International journals and conferences including IEEE xplore, Springer, Elsevier etc.

Apart from pure academic pursuits, Dr.S.Anbumalar has also proven her organization skills in several important areas. She was the Convenor for an AICTE Sponsored National Seminar on "Recent Trends in Process control and Instrumentation". She was the Chief coordinator for a MODROB (Modernization and Removal of Obsolescence) sanctioned by AICTE. Dr.S.Anbumalar was the Co-coordinator for a 12 day AICTE sponsored SDP (staff development programme) on "Alternative Energy systems for near future" and, she was the Co-investigator for an important project on "Study on the levels of pesticide residues in the agricultural products available in Puducherry region", funded by the DST (Department of science and Technology) Puducherry. She was also invited by "National Board of Accreditation (NBA)" to act as an Evaluator for the NBA Board.

As the Head of the Electronics & communication engineering department at V.R.S. Engineering college, Arasur, Head of the Instrumentation & control engineering department and also as the head of Electrical & electronics Engineering Department at Sri Manakula vinayagar Engineering college, Madagadipet (a total of twelve years of administrative experience as a Head), she had been involved in all mentoring and developmental activities to improve the quality of the budding engineers of these institutions.

She would take personal care and attention to groom and counsel the students and help them evolve into excellent engineers and excellent human beings. She has even addressed many personal issues of the staff of her institutes and had helped them overcome their problems. Dr. Anbumalar has been given the charge of the Women's Grievances cell of her Institution and has successfully enabled her women colleagues and students to overcome their problems.

Being actively involved in social welfare, Dr. Anbumalar coordinated the "Science for Women" project funded by the DST, New Delhi through her college community radio station, "Nila" and organized many health and education related and also general awareness programs. She has organized many educational programs under Extension activities of her department in the field of Electrical engineering for the benefit of society.

Dr. Anbumalar's achievements are all the more admirable because she has battled her personal health issues like diabetes, abnormal blood pressure and rheumatism, to retain her spirit of service to the community and continue to excel as a Professor and a good human being.

“TEACHER, GUIDE AND MENTOR”





Vice President –  
International Operations  
and Quality, Integra  
Software Services

Daisy Rani Macneill or, just, Daisy, as she is known in Integra, is a highly committed and effective Publishing Services Professional, besides being a wonderful human being with a strong social conscience.

Starting as a Quality Control Executive, Daisy has been a part of the foundation team of the organization and has grown in the organizational ladder to the position of Vice President, International Operations and Quality, managing operations in the United States and Japan. Daisy was instrumental in creating from scratch, several new functions and services in Integra, namely, Central Quality, Editorial Services, Project management and Rights and Permissions practices. Apart from managing Operations, she also had a successful stint in the New Business Development and Marketing function. Daisy has been a corporate globetrotter, traversing the continents, learning new cultures and leading Integra's teams across North America, Europe and Japan

Daisy's career has a phenomenal growth trajectory. From Manager, Quality Control, she was promoted as General Manager, Operations in 2001. Within four years, she rose to the position of Sr. General Manager (Service Delivery & Quality) in 2005. Already a member of the Leadership Team in Integra, Daisy next became Associate Vice President (Quality & Business Transformation) in 2010 and was later promoted as Vice President (International Operations & Quality) in 2012.

Highly innovative and creative in her approach, Daisy has introduced several win-win measures. Very importantly, the 'Work from Home model' she implemented for married women employees who had to relocate to other cities enabled the company to retain well-trained staff. She also initiated a Career Development Program in Puducherry through which qualified homemakers were trained and taken as employees with the option to operate out of home.

Daisy played a vital role in creating a sustainable and replicable training curriculum for preparing the local college Graduates /Diploma holders to handle e-publishing software and practices in Puducherry. Today, largely due to this skill building initiative spearheaded by Integra, Puducherry has become an e-publishing hub with the presence of at least 4-5 Multinational e-publishing companies. Daisy's role in this transformation is highly acknowledged by the Industry. This has enabled Integra launch e-publishing courses for final year students in Government Polytechnic, Puducherry and Periyar Maniammai University, Tanjore.

When Integra's earliest clients wanted to outsource core activities like Copyediting, and Project Management, Daisy worked with the clients to understand the 'ins and outs' of the work, and set up different functions. She subsequently set up the entire unit and with this in mind the Founders of Integra decided to set up a training division in 2001. Daisy was the key person in starting Infoteach, the in-house training and deployment arm of the Company, for the captive requirement of trained manpower for the Company.

Daisy also spearheads the Quality initiatives at Integra and implements best practices of other industries. Her main strength, as a Quality head, lies in creating value to customers by understanding the needs of customers, establishing processes and setting-up sustainable teams. Her work demands constant interaction with her team outside India after/before office hours, but she manages it well despite her domestic responsibilities.

She leads the women empowerment initiative of Integra known as "*Sakthi Oli*" which evolves support systems, Individual career Developmental Programs, etc. facilitating women employees strike a work-life balance especially after marriage. She has been instrumental in bringing Women Leaders to Integra's limelight through her developmental initiatives. Daisy was instrumental in Integra winning the NASSCOM Diversity award because of her key role in spearheading 'Shakti Oli' or Women's Empowerment initiatives in Integra.

She is an informal coach to many e-publishing professionals in the Industry, mainly women who get onto the managerial roles. She also supports women colleagues who are in personal distress and spends time convincing families to allow women take up higher responsibilities in Integra's business. On the other hand, she addresses concerns raised by the families. This has worked well, as anyone stating family as a constraint can find a helping hand and support from Daisy. All the above has made Daisy a role model for several women.

Daisy strongly believes that Women can successfully handle challenging roles and excel in their careers and this is what she continues to advocate to Women.

“COMMITTED PROFESSIONAL  
WITH A STRONG SOCIAL  
CONSCIENCE”





DGM, Project Delivery,  
Suresoft Systems Pvt Ltd.,  
Puducherry

Geethanjali of Suresoft Systems Pvt Ltd. effortlessly plays a role model for her peers and juniors because of her self-motivated, positive personality, her thorough professional experience, her knowledge, acumen, organizing skills and her genuine concern for others. With a year's teaching experience followed by fifteen years in the industry, Geethanjali has full domain knowledge and expertise in her own fields of Project Management and Digital consumer technology. Driven by a sense of ownership and professional pride, Geethanjali treats every assignment as her personal responsibility.

In addition to her functional role, Geethanjali has been selected to be a member of all the steering committees in her Organization such as Employee Suggestions Scheme, Motivation Reward Program, Training Groups and Personal Appraisal & Counselling. Always ready to serve on these Bodies, over and above her normal duties, Geethanjali is available for any work or responsibility, 24 x 7, cheerfully, willingly and efficiently. A votary of a clean and green environment Geethanjali has also been driving a Go Green campaign inside and outside her organization.

A role model for others, Geethanjali has encouraged and helped her colleagues to take up higher studies through the Distance Education route. She strongly recommends Yoga classes to some of her colleagues suffering from stress and even advises them on the most economical training facilities available such as Sunday classes, so that they can lead a balanced and fulfilling life. She had been nominated by her Management to counsel married women employees as well as those on the threshold of marriage, on how to have a happy married life! She draws upon her own life experience to demonstrate how this can be done, how to avoid petty misunderstanding, strife and ill-feelings and how to look for and achieve a well settled and blissful married life! A sound knowledge and ability in managing her personal finances and savings has made her stand out as a role model among her relatives and friends.

A role model for her social commitment, Geethanjali took the initiative to raise funds from her Alumni including those who had settled overseas, to meet the medical expense of one of their College-mates, when the lady fell seriously ill after her first delivery.

Geethanjali's message for other women: 'Have goals in your life and believe in yourself. Do not give up if things don't work out in the first attempt. Keep working at your goals till you succeed.' Geethanjali should know – having walked the talk herself.

“ HAVE GOALS AND BELIEVE  
IN YOURSELF ”



Team Leader, Medical  
Transcription Section,  
Azimuth, Puducherry

A powerhouse of energy and achievement, Girija Anandhan has been with the Medical Transcription Section of Azimuth with a total working experience of 14 years.

A faithful and sincere employee, Girija has been versatile in her career, stepping into any role demanded of her from the company, accepting and familiarizing herself with the new technological tools and upgrades. A keen learner, Girija is ever willing to break out of her comfort zone, to stretch her capabilities and explore new boundaries! Flexible and with an excellent interpersonal relationships, Girija continued to maintain an excellent rapport with the members of the Transcription team, moulding and motivating them in the climate of an increasingly challenging Medical Transcription industry, even after she was promoted to the Middle Management cadre.

As the Company underwent various changes and transformations Girija molded herself to gel with the Company's requirements and expectations and rise to the occasion for whatever new role was demanded of her. Girija scores high on the loyalty factor! She withstood the temptation to follow some team members who left Azimuth, deciding to reserve her considerable talents for the good of the Company. A faithful supporter of the Management, she has stood by the Company despite the many challenges faced by the Medical Transcription industry as it moved through various transformations.

Girija is an excellent example of how career women can face and overcome personal challenges, hardships and adversities. A highly committed employee she had worked in office till two days before her both her pregnancies. With a less than favourable financial position at home, Girija has weathered many a storm to raise her two children. There were days when she actually brought her children to office and completed her work with the kids on her lap! During her children's exams, she would take leave for only half-days to avoid inconveniencing the production workflow.

Girija thanks her mother, her in-laws, her children and her other relatives for the great support she has received from them, including working late hours and on Sundays. She shares her day-to-day work life with her husband who gives her suggestions for improvement. She also thanks her Head of Department, Ms. Nirmala, on whose encouragement she had applied for this job in the first place and to whom she owes the growth in her career.

Girija's Life Message is for parents 'in addition to earning for your children, it is important to spend time with your children every day'!

“DEDICATION IS THE KEY”



Senior Executive, Recruitment  
Datamatics Global Services,  
Puducherry

Top notch Recruiter, HR Generalist, dedicated manager, friend, philosopher, mentor and counsellor.....are some of the descriptions that can be applied to R. Kanimozhi, Senior Executive, Recruitment, for Datamatics Global Services:

With more than six years of HR experience behind her, Kanimozhi had the unenviable task of recruiting more than 500 employees during the Company's early days in Puducherry. For this she had to put in a seven day week, working every Sunday, month after month for almost nine months of the year. With no head hunter organization to back her up, this was a remarkable achievement which earned her a promotion in the very first year of her service.

Along with her hiring tasks Kanimozhi displayed her mentoring and training skills, having mentored four Management trainees for their Management Studies and also, training a fresh recruit to independently handle recruitment in a very short span of time.

Versatile HR professional that she is, Kanimozhi would sometimes play a generalist role as well in addition to her core function of Recruitment, for the entire unit. For example, when the unit was started at Puducherry, Kanimozhi was the only HR person to handle the entire gamut of HR starting from recruitment. She had single handedly managed diverse roles from Learning & Development to Employee Relations as well as HR Operations locally, for almost a year. Kanimozhi also built excellent relations with the Government officials which helped her carry out the Company's registration. She won two awards in two years for her excellent performance. Such was her dedication to her work she would undertake any task and cheerfully uphold the dignity of labour!

In the process she developed a personal rapport with her colleagues, came to know of their problems and discomforts and counseled them to come out of their problems whether work related or personal. No wonder her working hours sometimes seemed to stretch. However, she would uncomplainingly put in a 14 hour day sometimes, despite her family commitments.

Kanimozhi's message to the younger generation entering the workforce: 'follow best practices and continuously improve yourself; no work is too low for you – be happy and cheerful in executing whatever tasks are assigned to you and do not allow your personal problems to impact your professional life'. Words of wisdom validated by years of experience!

“VERSATILE MANAGER, FRIEND,  
PHILOSOPHER & MENTOR”



Assistant Professor of Tamil  
in Pondicherry University  
Community College

Dr. A. Lakshmi Duttai, Assistant Professor of Tamil in Pondicherry University Community College is a fine example of a scholar and a Litterateur. With an overall experience of 12 years combined with teaching experience for Under Graduate and Post Graduate students, she has been winning awards and accolades for her proficiency in Tamil Literature, from various Prestigious organizations.

She won the Young Scholar Award in 2009 which was the Presidential Award from the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai. This was followed in 2010, by the Sigaram Thotta Magalir, from the Sigaram services society, Puducherry. In the same year, Dr. Lakshmi received the Paventhar Art & Literary Award from the Paventhar Art & Literary Forum, Puducherry. The Pondicherry Rotary Club honoured her with the Vocational Excellence award in 2013. Her list of awards do not end here. She received a Prize certificate from Pondicherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture (PILC) for the first Doctorate Degree from PILC, Puducherry in 2004. This was followed by a Prize Certificate in 2008 from the Jinakanchi Mutt, Melsithamur and yet another Prize Certificate by the Tamil Nadu Jain Association, Chennai for the research book on Jain literature of Jeevaga Cintamani, in 2009.

Dr. Lakshmi's intellectual prowess has won her global recognition as her work took her to various national and International Seminars and Conferences. She was a participant at the UG Tamil Language Conference in Singapore in 2007 and, in the same year, participated in a Conference on Techniques in Tamil Language in Malaysia. In 2009 she was part of a Conference in Sri Lanka on 'Muslims in Pondicherry in the period of Anandha Ranga Pillai' and the latest feather in her cap was the World Tamil Conference in London in 2013.

Active in various Academic and Literary Associations, Dr. Lakshmi has been recognized for having published a slew of books and research papers, as well as for her work in editing books. She has attended various workshops like creative writing, usage of technology in language teaching, research methodology and inter-disciplinary approaches.

Socially aware and concerned for the welfare of women students and career women, Dr. Lakshmi has conducted various awareness programs in addition to counseling SHG members.

“SCHOLAR & LITTERATEUR  
WITH A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE”





Inspector, Quality  
Department, Dev Moulders,  
Puducherry

IWN is proud to rank among its 'Working Woman Achievers', K. Mariem, Inspector, Quality Department of Dev Moulders. Mariem's life has been a saga of battling adversities from which she emerged successfully.

Although her formal education has been till only the Plus two stage, Mariem who has over 8 years' experience, understands the technical aspect of the component drawings. Quite capable of understanding the functional requirements of the components, Mariem can skilfully handle Vernier and micrometer to measure dimensions and collaborate with the component drawing.

Mariem has had to overcome personal adversities as her husband had left her fifteen years ago, when her second son was only 6 months old. With her two sons, she resides with her aged mother whom she supports.

Cycling to work every day over a 12 km distance both ways, Mariem displays a high level of professional acumen, maintaining documents related to ISO 9001 systems and taking care of the quality laboratory which is part of ISI certification. A member of Quality Circles, her team emerged victorious in a competition organized by Godrej Household Products, a customer. As a part of the Company's continuous improvement process, she has contributed towards reduction of rejection percentage of parts. Mariem never hesitates to go beyond the call of duty, working as a production supervisor whenever the need arises.

Despite her busy schedule, Mariem contributes to the society in a significant manner. She takes the responsibility of cleaning the Mosque at Pullichapallam once a week. Along with her family members, she does 'annadhanam' in the village on special festival occasions like Ramzan and Id. Empathetic towards others, Mariem guides and mentors her co-worker, whose husband had left her 4 years ago, and helped her achieve self-reliance.

Her tenacity, determination and strength of spirit make K. Mariem a role model for all women who have to overcome personal challenges at home and in the workplace. Her 'never-say-die' attitude in the face of nearly insurmountable challenges is a shining beacon of light for everyone.

“A SHINING BEACON OF HOPE”



Sr. Manager, Chemin C & I Pvt. Ltd., Puducherry

They say that you must not remain in the same organization for too long, if you want to grow. Parameswari. B, Senior Manager, Projects Department in Chemin C & I Pvt. Ltd. proves the reverse.

Parameswari. B, has been with Chemin C & I Pvt. Ltd. for 33 years now, through thick and thin, good times and bad, rock steady in her loyalty to the Organization. She continually provides inspiration to her juniors while growing in her career herself and fulfilling her personal and domestic responsibilities.

The first employee of her Company, Parameswari joined as an Office Assistant, was promoted to Deputy Manager, and then step by step to Manager and Senior Manager.

An excellent mentor and trainer she is always ready with a helping hand to support her juniors and guide them through the requirements of the organization. She participated in her Company's 5S implementation and can be credited for her Company winning Sustenance Award from CII.

To further elaborate about this award, 5S is the concept implemented for the organized workplace to ensure cleanliness, neatness for the augmented productivity, quality and improve efficiency of the workplace. Actually 5S is achieved by forming more teams and she was one of the team leaders driving the members to achieve the goal set.

Parameswari is also a powerful team player and can effectively motivate her team members by counseling especially women colleagues and helping them overcome their personal issues. Knowledgeable about health and fitness, she generously shares her knowledge with colleagues, friends and family. Her multi-tasking skills and abilities were put to the test when she kept up her regular working schedule while taking care of her husband who had met with an accident.

Parameswari and her husband love children, though they have none of their own, and caring and generous that she is, she helped with the education of the children of some of her less privileged relatives who are now well placed in life.

Her hobby is to write poems and she typically uses her own creation to wish relatives, friends and colleagues on their special occasions.

“MULTI-TASKING TEAM PLAYER  
WITH A LOVE FOR POETRY”



Assistant Professor  
Manakula Vinayagar  
Institute of Technology,  
Puducherry

An Assistant Professor for the last seven years in Manakula Vinayagar Institute of Technology, Mrs. S. Sasikala has proven her mettle as a woman achiever in taking on diverse responsibilities and executing them successfully.

As a socially aware and responsible person, Sasikala had partaken in activities like sapling plantation – she had helped plant more than 250 saplings; motivated her students to participate in blood donation camps – 150 units of blood donated on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary and 210 units of blood during another camp. JIPMER Hospital recognized and awarded her for this achievement. She has also been a Programme Officer for the National Service Scheme (NSS). In fact such was her dedication that she attended a ten-day NSS training program in Chennai despite having a 10 month old baby to take care of.

A firm believer in the rights and duties of citizens to participate in Parliament Democracy, Sasikala found an outlet for her interest in numerous activities in this area. She organized a group of 37 students as student polling officers for the Lok Sabha Elections this year (2014) and also co-ordinated for deputing 9 students to a YOUTH PARLIAMENT at Pune.

Sasikala also participated in conducting various other programs such as Voting Awareness Program – organizing a Motor Bike rally for creating Voters' Awareness, carrying out Signature Campaign Awareness, Mobile Polling Booth, Distribution of voting Awareness Stickers, Drawing Competition and initiating 350 new voters to participate in the polls by mass mailing etc. Because of her efforts, she won an award from the Election Department for best campus ambassador-cum-nodal officer.

A dedicated and committed teacher, Sasikala is active in various other activities like organizing PON-TEX Exhibition in her campus and also organizing Hello FM KalluriSalai. She takes special care to guide and counsel youngsters with her maturity and wisdom and motivates them to work towards a fruitful and fulfilling life. She is equally dedicated to the well-being of her colleagues and willingly helps anyone overcome personal problems with the power of positive thinking while motivating them for career growth and development by attending seminars and publishing papers.

Aware of the need for preventive health care, Sasikala helped setting up a Dengue fever Awareness and First-Aid Program in her college and was also involved in organizing various health programs in Kothapurinatham Village such as TB Awareness Seminar, Diabetes testing, Blood Grouping for Government Middle School students and even setting up a one day seminar on Healthy Habits for Healthy Life in the same village. She organized a Bi-cycle rally for creating Awareness on 'Avoid Pollution'. Out of her commitment to the development of Kothapurinatham Village, Sasikala had organized two seven day residential camps during December – January, 2012–13 when various socially



useful, productive initiatives were undertaken such as Seminar on Awareness of Adolescence Psychology for the students, Seminar on Global warming and its Effect for Govt. School students, planting of saplings, cleaning the Gandhi Mandabam at Keelur, and conducting a cycle rally for the Polio Awareness. Sasikala's commitment level is so high she managed these multifarious activities even with the responsibility of her two year old baby.

Sasikala attributes her achievements to the guidance she received from her Principal Dr. S. Malarkkan, the cooperation of her faculty friends, NSS SLO Dr. P. Kolasamy, NSS Programme coordinator Dr. DJ. Tamizhmaran, the student volunteers and last but certainly not the least, the great support of her husband Dr. S. Singaravelu and her family, which inspired, motivated her on her mission of service to society.

“DEDICATED TEACHER  
COMMITTED TO SOCIAL SERVICE”



Assistant Professor, ECE,  
Rajiv Gandhi College of  
Engineering and Technology

A brilliant student, a committed teacher, a socially conscious citizen and a great colleague. This description sums up the attributes of B. Shoba, Assistant Professor (Senior Scale) in the ECE Department of Rajiv Gandhi College of Engineering and Technology. An M.Tech (ECE), with an MBA in Operations Management and pursuing Ph.D., Shoba has 10 years of teaching experience.

She was a School Topper in her SSLC examination, coming second in the State in Tamil. These laurels were achieved studying under most difficult conditions when she had no electricity at home. She won Gold Medal in her M.Tech examination from the Pondicherry University and during her second pregnancy, received the best Paper award in International and National conferences. Her love for the Tamil language fetched her many prizes in elocution contests in Tamil.

Shoba's career started as a Lecturer in 2003 and she was promoted to Assistant Professor within six years. Now, she has moved upto Assistant Professor, Senior Scale.

She has organized several Workshops and Seminars on topics like embedded systems, OFDM, Wavelet transform and testing of electronic devices. She organized national level technical symposiums and was involved in coordinating an international conference.

“DON'T LIMIT  
YOURSELF.  
YOU CAN  
GO AS FAR  
AS YOUR  
MIND LETS  
YOU. WHAT  
YOU BELIEVE,  
REMEMBER,  
YOU CAN  
ACHIEVE”

She has published as many as seventeen papers in international journals, international conferences and national conferences and also attended eight AICTE sponsored workshops. Under her leadership as the Head of the Department for ECE from January 2010, the Institute could produce a Pondicherry University Gold Medalist in 2012. She served as a Disciplinary Committee In charge in the department of ECE, for two consecutive academic years and she established new laboratories namely networks and transmission lines lab, embedded systems lab and installed vector network analyzer and RADAR equipment. Shoba's abilities were recognized beyond the confines of her College and she held important position in various Academic Bodies of the Government. She served as an interview panel member in Government of Pondicherry's Institute of Biomedical Engineering. She was an invigilator for the All India online GATE exam in 2013 at Puducherry and she served as a member of the "Jury" for national level students technical symposium held at SJS Pauls Engineering College in 2013. This was all achieved despite several family constraints.

Going beyond the world of academics, Shoba she has arranged a free medical camp in Sri Aadhiparasakthi Annai Orphanage located at Ariyankuppam, was an NCC volunteer in Pondicherry Engineering College during her B.Tech days and organized a Blood Donation Camp in JIPMER in collaboration with the Rotary Club. As a colleague she has lent a sympathetic shoulder and her helping hands to other faculty members in sorting out their personal issues. She also guided some of them to pursue higher education.



Senior Officer Demand Analyst / SCM, Eaton Bussmann Business

Eaton Bussmann Business's Senior Officer Demand Analyst / SCM, S. Thilagavathy plays an important role in her organization which has won her two back to back awards last year – the Q1 2013 Team Excellence and the Q2 2013 Applause Samman Bussmann Award and **Best Employee of the Quarter at Eaton**. In the same year she received a promotion and moved to the position of Senior Officer (Demand Analyst). She is keen to take up new assignments and efficiently manages home and office responsibilities

Thilagavathy enthusiastically participates in mentoring and developmental initiatives, mentoring the younger members of her team, sensitizing them about the job requirements and enabling them succeed in achieving their targets.

She also leads "Order Management" that involves overall satisfaction of customers by on time delivery of products required by the customer through which the company's brand image is reinforced. She has performed very well in this role and is now responsible for the entire India Order Entry.

Apart from her professional responsibilities, Thilagavathy contributes to a Charity known as **Little charity – helping hands** in Reddiarpalayam, Puducherry. With little monetary support forthcoming, Thilagavathy generously gives her most precious possession – **her time** – to visit the elderly residents of the Home, talk to them, listen to them and give them some comfort and joy with her sheer presence.

As a woman employee she is sensitive to the challenges faced by women in the workplace and has actively contributed to implementation of the provisions of Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) and leads the committee in her Company. Working closely with women employees she enables them to successfully handle several challenges while ensuring that both the organization and the employee benefit.

Thilagavathy is all praise for her mother-in-law, who is also a career person, but enables Thilagavathy to extend her work in office if the situation so demands without getting stressed out for the home front. Thilagavathy thanks her family for their unstinted support to her career.

Not a person to rest on her laurels, Thilagavathy feels there is a lot more to be achieved and she is confident of taking on more challenges and growing in her career.

Her life message to women: "Think out of the Box. Think positive. Be bold and confident and even if things go wrong sometimes, take it as a learning and forge ahead to success".

“ POSITIVE THINKER & DOER; OPTIMIST EVEN IN THE TOUGHEST OF CHALLENGES ”



Medical Director &  
Consultant, Ophthalmic  
Surgeon, Jothi Eye Care  
Centre, (JECC) an Unit of  
Vasan Healthcare enterprise

Dr. Vanaja Vaithianathan has so many achievements and awards to her credit that it would be impossible to list them all within the confines of this Compendium. The Medical Director & Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon of Jothi Eye Care Centre completed her schooling in St. Mary's Matriculation Higher Secondary School Cuddalore; was the school and district topper and was a State Rank Holder in her 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Standard exams.

A keen practitioner of Yoga from her school days, Dr. Vanaja completed her MBBS from Madras Medical College in 1992 going on to do her Diploma in Ophthalmology in 1994, for which she won the Dr. Sathyavakesan's Gold Medal for best performance. Other achievements followed including a Diplomate of National Board in 1997, a Fellowship in General Ophthalmology with the Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli & Madurai, between 1995 and 1997, the International Council of Ophthalmology (I.C.O) Part I in 1996 and finally the elevation as the Fellow of the All India Collegium of Ophthalmology – Cataract & Phaco.

The list of special training Dr. Vanaja has undergone is very impressive and we are proud to enumerate them here, such as Contact Lens Training at the L.V.Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, the Phacoemulsification Training & Observation at Rajan Eye Care Hospital & Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, Chennai and Eye Bank Observership & Training at Ramayama International Eye Bank, L.V.Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

Dr. Vanaja has carried out Live Surgery using Infinite phaco machine for POA in 2007, in Puducherry and has also done Live Surgery of Ozil phaco with Toric IOL TNOA Conference, Tirunelveli in 2011. Overall, she has done more than 20,000 surgeries till date. No wonder, then, that Anandha Vikatan published a cover story of Dr. Vanaja Vaithianathan with family in the supplementary issue "Yen Vikatan" highlighting the community service in the field of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Vanaja has published numerous papers and given talks at a number of conferences. Her qualifications and contributions to the cause of medicine and to the wellbeing of her patients, have brought recognition and awards to Dr. Vanaja. Starting with the **Outstanding Young Indian Award** from the **Indian Jaycees of Thiruvannamalai**, in **2003**, she went on to add more laurels. She won the **Sirantha Sathanaiyalar Award** from the **Puratchi Thilagam K.Bhagyaraj Rasigar Mandram** in the presence of **Thiru Bhagyaraj himself**, in **2004**. She received the **Kan Kaavalar Award** from the **Lions Club of Puducherry** in **2005**, the **Puduvai Sakthi Award** from the **Women's Task Force Y2K** in **2009** and the **Women's Day Award** from the **Lion's Club of Puducherry** in the same year, the **Service Excellence Award** from the **Lions Club of Puducherry** in **2011**.

However, it is not 'all work and no play' for Dr. Vanaja. Apart from her field of Ophthalmology, she has wide quote just a few examples from her vast range, Dr. Vanaja is the Founder President – Pudumai Pengal Nagaichuvai Mandram, presently Holistic Health And Humour Association. She has been associated with the publication of a collection of poems, "Kannizhanda Pillaikku", (poetry on eye donation awareness by about 50 Tamil poets) published through JECF. Dr. Vanaja is also a Member of Prajapita Brahmakumaris Ishwaraya Vishwa Vidyalaya and is a participant in mind training and spiritual classes conducted by the JECC.

“AN 'EYE' FOR EXCELLENCE”



Pondicherry University  
Community college

V. Bakkialakshmy, daughter of G. Vadivel has overcome several adversities in life to achieve academic proficiency coupled with sporting success and recognition at an All-India level. Coming from a poor family, Bakkialakshmy lost both her parents and is supported by her brother. She also has two younger sisters.

An Arts Graduate, currently pursuing her B.Ed degree, from Pondicherry University Community college, this young lady of indomitable spirit has excelled in the sporting arena. An outstanding Kho-Kho player, she has won gold, silver and bronze medals in various All-India tournaments across the country. As a fitting recognition, she had received the award of Best Outgoing Sports Woman from Bharathidasan Government College for Women, Puducherry.

A young woman with a social commitment, Bakkialakshmy has been awarded the 'B' Grade Certificate for her volunteering work with the NSS during 2008–10

Gifted with a sense of adventure, Bakkialakshmy has had an illustrious stint in the NCC Air Wing and had also represented Puducherry at the Republic Day parade in the National Capital.

IWN wishes V. Bakkialakshmy a glorious future!

“STRIDE AHEAD IN LIFE WITH  
SPORTSMAN SPIRIT; LET SUCCESS  
NOT GO TO YOUR HEAD NOR  
FAILURE TO YOUR HEART”





Bharathidasan Govt.  
College for Women,  
Puducherry

K. Bhuvaneswari, Class Topper in English Literature in Bharathidasan Govt. College for Women, Puducherry, is also a subject topper in phonetics, and has been adjudged the Best Student of the Department.

Bhuvaneswari is an all-rounder in the truest sense of the term. Best outgoing student of Bharathidasan College, she has been awarded B Cadet in the NCC, is proficient in painting, singing, elocution and debate, winning prizes and trophies in inter-college, in the university competitions and to top it all, Bhuvaneswari has had the distinction of compering a function in honour of the Lt. Governor of Puducherry.

Aware of the value of blood in saving lives, Bhuvaneswari has been a keen Blood Donor – a noble deed worth emulating by all students.

Blessed with a spirit of adventure she has been an NCC Air Force Cadet, having successfully done her Certificate B examination in Grade 'A' and completing the annual training camp conducted by 1 (P) AIR SQN (FLY), NCC. She had also attended a Personality Development course at NCC OTA, Gwalior.

A champion in throw ball, Bhuvaneswari excels in the sporting arena as well.

Not surprisingly for a class topper in English, Bhuvaneswari secured the First Rank in English Essay contest in the inter-state collegiate literary competition and also won the First place in English Elocution.

To add to her list of achievements is the first prize in the Variety Program Competition organized by Town Official Language Implementation Committee, Puducherry

All-rounder that she is, Bhuvaneswari has been successful in winning first prize in a light music contest as well as in poster making.

Most importantly, Bhuvaneswari proved her writing abilities with her the internship with the reporting section of one of the most prestigious dailies, The Hindu.

“ALL ROUNDER WITH DEEP  
SOCIAL COMMITMENT”





Rajiv Gandhi College of  
Engineering & Technology,  
Puducherry

A student of Rajiv Gandhi College of Engineering & Technology, Dhivya is majoring in Computer Science & Engineering. With an Academic track record: 8.77 CGPA, she topped her class in the first two semesters. To her credit, she has completed 5 levels in brain development foundation and has also completed 2 levels with the Vedic Maths Foundation of India (VMFI). She stood second in a drawing competition on the occasion of National Science Day and also won the second prize in National parade in Pecofes '11.

Dhivya mentions frankly that till her 5<sup>th</sup> standard she was not a very good student, except in Maths. She gratefully acknowledges the role of her teacher 'Sandhya Madam' who encouraged and inspired her to do better and as result she stood among the top 5 in her class the very next year. Her ambition was to become a doctor but was not able to because of her financial reasons.

Apart from her academic achievements, Dhivya also has excelled in various extracurricular activities.

A keen skating enthusiast, Dhivya has participated in a roller skating rally. Gifted with an entrepreneurial zeal she not only participated in the zone city workshop titled "Idea to execution for entrepreneurs" conducted by Nurture Talent, but also earns through art making and crafting.

Conscious about the poor in society, Dhivya has worked on providing food and clothes to orphanages – a very laudable effort in a young college student!

With a maturity way beyond her years, Dhivya's Life Message to all is 'Nothing is permanent; change is constant'.

“CHANGE IS THE ONLY  
CONSTANT IN LIFE”



Kanchi Mamunivar Centre  
for PG Studies

A dynamic all rounder, S.Kowsalya has wide ranging interests in extracurricular activities, and is an active participant in social service.

A student of M.Com in Kanchi Mamunivar Centre for PG Studies, Puducherry, with a percentage of 64.3% in her first year, Kowsalya has completed her Junior grade in English typewriting, her Pratham in Hindi and has earned a Diploma in computerized Accountancy and has also obtained A+ for good measure.

This multi-skilled young lady is deeply committed to social causes and has been an enthusiastic member of the National Social Service scheme. She participated in the NSS, Pre-Republic Day Parade Camp 2010 and had also completed two years as an NSS volunteer. This year she also participated in a voting awareness rally through the NSS – a true citizen of Democratic India! A firm believer in greening the earth Kowsalya has also been involved in projects for plantation of saplings.

Along with her social commitments comes her skills in the sporting arena. Kowsalya has won competitions in Volley ball, Softball, Kabadi and has also won the Third place in the inter-collegiate cricket tournament for women. Her sporting prowess was seen from her childhood when she won prizes in athletics at the school level. She had also won the first prize in the Republic Day Parade Marchpast. Kowsalya has received the Rajya Puraskar Award from the Bharat Scouts & Guides.

On the cultural side, Kowsalya has won the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in a dance competition in the 7<sup>th</sup> Inter State Collegiate Meet and had secured the 1<sup>st</sup> place in the prestigious Junior Grade Thirukkural contest.

The IWN is proud of the achievements of this versatile youngster from an underprivileged family where the father works hard to make a living as a mason while her mother manages the home.

“LET US KEEP FLAMING IN  
OUR HEARTS, THE FIRE  
OF PROGRESS”



Acharya Arts & Science  
College

For Kumdhavalli life has not been a bed of roses. Coming from a single parent family she is the first Graduate in her family after completing her studies in a Government school. But Kumdhavalli showed very early in her life that she was a natural leader having been a school pupil leader as a child.

A highly sociable young woman, gifted with great perseverance and initiative, U.Kumdhavalli is a graduate in Corporate Secretaryship who has extended her achievements beyond the pale of academic proficiencies.

A student of the Acharya Arts & Science College, with high academic scores in her exams, Kumdhavalli excels in sports and extra-curricular activities. She has been a member of the organizing committee of the Acharya Business League in which her role was to get the sponsors.

She won the second place in the event Brand Maker (AD-ZAP) in Inter College Management Meet Voyage'13.

In a career guidance event, "Conquer'14" for Higher Education Kumdhavalli won the First Rank. The event was Ad zap.

In 2013, The Pondicherry Engineering College conducted PECOFES ' 13 in which she was the Winner of the Treasure Hunt event.

A keen sportsperson, Kumdhavalli won the Second place in Kho-Kho in the Annual Sports day in her college.

Chess, they say, is the game of royalty and Kumdhavalli was a Winner in the Chess Competition in the Annual Sports Day of her College.

“MULTI-FACETED YOUNG  
WOMAN ACHIEVER”



Rajiv Gandhi College of  
Engineering & Technology,  
Puducherry

A good blend of tradition and changing trends – an ever growing love for classical dance with an on graduating in modern technology! That's Neeraja L.M, a student of ECE in Rajiv Gandhi College of Engineering & Technology, Puducherry.

Neeraja has been learning dance since she was five years old and at the age of fourteen was touring France and Germany for her dance recitals – on one occasion she had as many as five recitals in a single day at five different venues in the two countries! The challenge was even more humungous for the fourteen year old as she had to do the full elaborate make up entirely on her own with no family member to assist her!

Neeraja's passion for the classical dance form was such that she did not abandon it even during her Board Examinations and managed academics and dance at the crucial time when most students focus entirely on studies!

With Padmashri Padmasubramanian, Padmashri Shobana and her mother as her role models, Neeraja has achieved many laurels in academics and in dance. She acknowledges the support she has received from her family and the Institutions where she studied, but then the credit for her success must rightfully go to her.

She won the "State Best Child Award – 2002" for excellence in dance; she was one of the finalists in National Balashree Award – 2003. A winner of Kalai Ilananmamani Award, Neeraja had represented St. Joseph's of Cluny for cultural events in France and Germany. She also represented India in "JENESYS – 2010" an inter-cultural exchange program held in Japan. In recent years, Neeraja won the first prize in "AURO-2012" an inter-college cultural festival and hosted the "TECHNOSPARK 12" a National level student technical symposium in Puducherry.

This talented young woman has a clear take on what it needs to be a student. 'Be self-motivated, do not depend on others to push you; be confident, but not overly so; and most important respect, your parents and take their advice, parents know best and they can guide you best!'

“TO SUSTAIN YOUR INTEREST  
IN YOUR WORK YOU SHOULD  
GET BETTER AND BETTER AT IT”



Sri Aravindar Engineering  
College, Puducherry

When adversity strikes, the weak break but those who are resolute, emerge higher and stronger. M. Priya pursuing her B.E. in CSE, stands testimony to this for her sheer strength and conviction in helping the poor and the needy, describe the most cruel blow of fate in her life. Priya had lost both her parents in a road accident in 2012.

For any other person the world would have collapsed around her and it probably seemed that way to Priya as well, but, despite her obvious grief, this plucky young woman pulled herself together to recover from her bereavement.

She was then in her second year of Engineering. With steely resolve she prepared for her examinations, which were just two days away. She sat for the exams and cleared the semester. They say when the going gets tough, the tough gets going and Priya in her own modest unassuming way has proved this old adage true!

Intellectually gifted, Priya has risen above the constraints of her own economic handicap and performed well academically.

A third year student of B.E CSE at the Sri Aravindar Engineering College, Priya is pushing the envelope to fulfill her late father's wish – he wanted to see her become a software engineer and she is intent on joining a reputed IT Company.

Embodying the virtues of hard work, integrity and honesty, this young woman has shown how to overcome her own adversity and find strength and fulfillment in service to others. Priya not only takes seminar classes for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> standard students of other schools, but also gives free tuitions for economically disadvantaged students.

Her message for other students is simple and reads like a page from her life: 'whenever you are faced with a problem, don't worry about its magnitude; just focus on the solution'.

“DON'T FRET OVER THE PROBLEM;  
FOCUS ON THE SOLUTION”





Sri Aravindar Arts &  
Science College, Sedarapet,  
Villupuram

With a series of small victories against adversity, from a tender age, Rajakumari, is today, a student of Business Administration at the Sri Aravindar Arts & Science College, Sedarapet, Villupuram.

She lost her father when she was just a year and a half old. She had to discontinue her studies for three years when her mother fell ill and was hospitalized.

But for people endowed with grit and determination help always comes in the form of good Samaritans ready to lend a helping hand. With the help of one Mr. Ramadass, Rajkumari was able to start a small eatery, operating out of a hut. Friends and neighbours helped and with the money generated from the restaurant, she started a grocery business. This was between 2006 and 2009. In 2010, she constructed a new building for her expanding restaurant operations and in 2012, bought her first computer. Others whose help she happily acknowledges are a Rental owner and a Company Manager near her home.

Meanwhile she resumed her studies doing her 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> through distance education and also got professional training. She earned a First class with distinction in Junior Grade Typewriting English, did a 6 months technical course in cutting & tailoring and also won a Diploma in Computer Application (DCA).

A self-made person, Rajakumari holds her mother, uncle and also Swami Vivekananda as her role model. The life message of this ever optimistic youngster is 'Never dominate others!'

“EACH NEW DAWN BRINGS  
THE POSSIBILITY OF A  
NEW PROGRESS”



Pondicherry University

The IWN celebrates the achievements of women in diverse fields – sports, culture, academics the Professions and **D.Sugandhi, M.P. Ed student of Pondicherry University** perfectly symbolizes this diversity.

Sugandhi is a Powerlifter par excellence. In a field which relatively few women venture into, Sugandhi has achieved laurels in the Zonal, State, National and International levels.

Sugandhi has won a formidable collection of medals in various prestigious Powerlifting meets in India and abroad.

From University meets to Asian Powerlifting Championships Sugandhi has participated in a wide swathe of competitions and has done her University, her State, her Region and her Country proud at all these meets.

She represented Pondicherry University in the Power Lifting Championship at **All India inter Universities** meets organized by Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar & Vishakapatnam, University and secured IV place & won Bronze Medal in all India inter university organized by Kannur University, Kerala.

**At the State level, she has** represented Pondicherry Power Lifting Association in the Junior State level meet and Won gold medals during 2002 to 2007. She represented the State in the Junior & Senior State level meets and Won gold medals during 2007 to 2009. In between, she had represented the Pondicherry Power Lifting Association in the Sub-Junior State level meet and had won gold medals between 2005 – 2007. At the Senior State Level too, she has represented the State and won gold medals during 2006 to 2013.

Participating in various **South India** Junior Power Lifting Championships, Sugandhi had won Gold at Coimbatore, Tanjavur and Puducherry besides a silver medal at Puducherry.

Sugandhi's powerlifting prowess was well demonstrated at the **National Level** too, as she won Gold medals in Junior National Powerlifting Championship held at Amravati, Maharashtra and in Jamshedpur. She won the Silver medal in Junior National Powerlifting Championship held at Lucknow, UP and Gold medals in National Federation Cup Power Lifting Championship held at Raiasthan, H.P. and Delhi. Sugandhi has also won a Gold medal in the Senior National Power lifting championship held at Kozhikode, Kerala and a Bronze medal in the National SGFI weightlifting championship held at Sangli.

Keeping the National Tricolour flying high, Sugandhi has won for her country, the Silver medal in **Asian** power lifting championships at Udaipur in Rajasthan and had crossed the Oceans to win the Silver medal in the Asian Power Lifting Championship at Kobe City, Japan.

IWN wishes this young achiever more 'power' to drive her future success.

“HIGHER ALWAYS HIGHER! LET US  
NEVER BE SATISFIED WITH WHAT  
IS ACCOMPLISHED”



Pondicherry University  
Community College

A star performer, this 3<sup>rd</sup> year student of B.Sc. (Visual Communication) of Pondicherry University Community College has an excellent academic career, supporting herself financially, while participating in various extra-curricular activities.

Suganthi did her mother proud when she was selected by the US Department of State for the Community College Initiative Program 2013–14 and received the Community College Initiative Program (CCIP) Award for 2013–2014 to study documentary film making in Scottsdale Community College, Arizona, USA, where she is currently pursuing her 3<sup>rd</sup> year studies. A great achievement for this young woman, from an underprivileged, single-parent family, where her mother runs a shop for the family's upkeep.

There are more milestones to Suganthi's credit, which makes her a perfect role model for women students. She has been, till date, the only winner of an US Government grant for making a documentary film on domestic violence on women in India.

While in the US, she has volunteered with the STARS organization, Scottsdale International Film Festival, Welcome to America Project, US Veterans and military fundraiser, Arizona Asian Festival, PF Changs Marathon Expo, Game day at Capri Care Center/soltewera Senior Living. To further upgrade her knowledge in the field of visual communication, Suganthi has done an Internship with Camera Crew in Maricopa Community Colleges Television (MCTV) and was voted Maricopa Community Colleges Television "Student of the Week"! A great honour for this young Puducherrian who had already managed to work as Cinematographer for two short films.

Incidentally, Suganthi had received the Best in Mathematics Award conducted by Excellent Exams, Nagercoil. She had also received 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for her speech about the historical person Ananda Rangapillai conducted by the Pondicherry History Association.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Suganthi now plans to make a documentary film on social cause!

IWN wishes all the very best to this creative and talented young woman.

“I THINK, THEREFORE, I AM”

