

# THE STRONGER 100 WOMEN

# TOP 100 GLOBAL WOMEN TRAILBLAZERS 2024

Legends  
Leaders  
Venture Capitalists  
Founders

*Stronger* THOLONS



# OVERVIEW

## **Women Leading the Charge: Progress, Challenges, and Celebrating Achievements**

### **Women on the Rise: Leading the Way**

The past century has witnessed a remarkable rise in women's leadership roles. We're seeing a positive trend with women now holding a noteworthy 33% of director positions, a clear sign of progress for C-suite representation. There's still work to be done to achieve gender parity in boardrooms, but this advancement allows for more diverse perspectives and strategic decision-making within companies.

### **Building a Strong Future**

With 47% of entry-level positions filled by women, and 38% in management roles, the pipeline for future leadership is robust. This diversity ensures a broad pool of qualified candidates for CEO and C-suite roles, leveraging valuable ground-level experience for top leadership positions.

### **Breaking Barriers**

While only 10% of Fortune 500 CEOs are women this year, it's the highest percentage ever recorded. This steady increase indicates a positive trajectory towards breaking the glass ceiling. Studies have also shown that companies with greater gender diversity outperform their counterparts, highlighting the importance of inclusivity for success.

### **Celebrating Achievements and Embracing Diversity**

International Women's Day is a day to celebrate the achievements of women globally. But true equality goes beyond just numbers. Diversity is a core component, and raising awareness of its importance is crucial. We must celebrate the phenomenal achievements of women everywhere and renew our commitment to creating a world where all women can flourish and reach their full potential.

### **The StrongHer 100: Honoring Women Trailblazers**

In recognition of these efforts, we unveil "The StrongHer 100" – a prestigious list honoring the Top 100 Global Women Trailblazers. These remarkable women are pioneers who defied the odds, shattered glass ceilings, and paved the way for future generations. They are not just role models, but a force for positive change in the world.



# LEGENDS

## **StrongHer Ventures: Celebrating Women Who Pave the Way**

StrongHer Ventures honors the extraordinary women who've built lasting legacies in business. These leaders and innovators achieved remarkable success, inspiring future generations of female investors and entrepreneurs.

## **Shattering Glass Ceilings, Inspiring Generations**

The stories of pioneering CEOs and trailblazing entrepreneurs is a testament to their resilience and ambition which reshaped the financial landscape and ignited a spark in countless women to pursue their dreams.

## **A Ripple Effect of Empowerment**

These remarkable women's influence goes beyond achievements. They created a wave of empowerment that continues to inspire. Their journeys serve as beacons of hope, urging women from all backgrounds to reach for greater heights in finance.

## **Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future**

StrongHer Ventures celebrates these pioneers and aims to inspire future generations, fostering a more equitable business landscape where women can thrive.





# MARIE CURIE

## First Female Noble Laureate

Marie Curie made several important contributions to physics and chemistry. She is credited with discovering radium and polonium, being the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and being the first person to win two Nobel Prizes.

Her pioneering work on radioactivity revolutionized the scientific world and led to countless breakthroughs in the health and medical sciences. Her achievements also include the development of a portable X-ray to treat wounded soldiers and the establishment of two major research institutes - the Curie Institute in Paris and Warsaw - devoted to medical research.

# INDIRA GANDHI

## India's First Female Prime Minister

Indira Gandhi was a trailblazer for Indian women, becoming the one to serve three consecutive terms from 1967 to 1977 and 1980 to 1984. During her tenure, she made several significant contributions to India, such as leading the country to victory in the 1971 war with Pakistan, nationalizing major industries, launching the Green Revolution to boost food production, and founding Operation Flood to modernize India's dairy industry.

In recognition of these accomplishments, she was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, in 1971. Gandhi's leadership and dedication to India's progress serve as an inspiration to all.





# ANNA BISSELL

**United States' First Woman CEO  
Bissell Corporation**

Anna Bissell was an inspiring leader in the business world, becoming the first female CEO of a company in the United States. She made history by inventing the mechanical carpet sweeper, transforming the cleaning industry.

Anna was an advocate for progressive labor practices and philanthropic causes. Her vision and determination set a powerful example for generations to come.

# MARGARET THATCHER

**UK's First Female Prime Minister**

Margaret Thatcher was a groundbreaking politician who made history as the first female and the longest-serving British Prime Minister of the 20th Century. She served from 1979 to 1990, leaving a lasting legacy with her conservative policies, economic deregulation, and unwavering commitment to national security.

Her bold reforms considerably impacted the UK's economy and society, garnering praise and criticism. In 1982, she led the country to victory in the Falklands War against Argentina. Thatcher's tenure was influential, and her influence is still felt today.





# HELEN KELLER

## First-Ever Deaf-Blind Author and Activist

Helen Keller wrote an iconic autobiography, *The Story of My Life*, published when she was 22 and wrote 12 books throughout her career.

She was a driving force at the American Foundation for the Blind, to which she dedicated over 40 years.

Keller co-founded Helen Keller International to prevent blindness and malnutrition.

# ADA LOVELACE

## Pioneering Mathematician and Computer Genius

Ada Lovelace is widely remembered for her groundbreaking work in developing the first algorithm to be processed on a computer. Her efforts are regarded as the first example of computer programming, and in recognition of her achievements, the programming language 'Ada' was named after her.

The second Tuesday in October is celebrated as Ada Lovelace Day, commemorating the women who have made important contributions to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields.





# FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

**Founder of Modern Nursing**

Florence Nightingale devoted her life to helping others. An early champion of evidence-based medical practice, she was a major force behind the founding of the Nightingale School of Nursing in London in 1860.

Her work was recognized in 1907 when she became the first woman awarded the Order of Merit. Her legacy is remembered annually on International Nurses Day, celebrated annually on May 12 - her birthday.

# COCO CHANEL

**French Fashion Icon and Designer**

Coco Chanel's influence over the Parisian haute couture scene spanned almost six decades. She was known for creating classically elegant yet comfortably chic designs that encouraged women to break away from the rigid, uncomfortable clothing of the 19th century.

She was also the first major fashion designer to introduce a signature perfume.





# RUTH HANDLER

**Creator of the Barbie Doll**

Ruth Handler made a lasting impact on the toy industry. Handler was born in Colorado in 1916 and co-founded Mattel Inc. Her most significant contribution was the invention of the Barbie doll.

This iconic figure revolutionized the industry by providing young girls with dolls that could reflect their aspirations and desires. Handler was a visionary entrepreneur who recognized the potential of her invention and launched an enduring legacy in the toy industry.

# ROSA PARKS

**Iconic Civil Rights Activist**

Rosa Parks's actions in 1955 initiated the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Rosa Parks' courageous decision to remain seated on a Montgomery, Alabama bus and refuse to move for a white passenger was crucial in the fight for racial justice.

She was honored with numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and posthumously inducted into both the National Women's Hall of Fame and the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame. Parks' legacy inspires individuals today to stand up for their rights and fight for justice and equality.



# BUSINESS LEADERS

## Women Leading the Charge: The 2024 Business Landscape

### From Boardrooms to Breakthroughs: Women Shaping the Future

In 2024, women are revolutionizing the business landscape. Their diverse perspectives drive innovation, proving diversity's strategic value. This report showcases 25 influential female leaders reshaping industries and advocating for equality.

### The Power of Diversity: Beyond the Numbers

While the number of women CEOs in Fortune 500 companies has risen, true gender equality remains a journey. This report underscores the need to dismantle remaining barriers and unlock the full potential of women in business.

### Leadership with Impact

Studies confirm the benefits of female leadership, including lower failure rates and higher returns on investment. Diverse leadership teams consistently outperform less diverse ones. This section celebrates these achievements and acknowledges ongoing challenges.

### Beyond Statistics: A Force for Positive Change

These trailblazing women are guided by a compelling vision that results in groundbreaking products, services, and even the establishment of entirely new industries. Their leadership drives economic growth and sparks positive social change.

### Breaking Barriers, Inspiring Generations

By challenging conventions and advocating for inclusion, these women inspire the next generation to shatter barriers and redefine the narrative of business leadership.

### Meet the Women Shaping Our Future

This report provides an in-depth exploration of the stories, strategies, and achievements of these 25 business leaders. They serve as a testament to the potency of diversity, resilience, and the relentless pursuit of progress.





# NITA AMBANI

**Founder & Chairperson, Reliance Foundation**

Nita Ambani is the visionary and leader behind the Reliance Foundation, which works to provide access to education, sports, the arts, culture, humanitarian support, and philanthropy in India. She is the proud owner of the Mumbai Indians team in the Indian Premier League that has achieved multiple titles.

When she is not busy with work, Nita Ambani likes to visit Kruger National Park in South Africa for her holidays. Bhel and Dahi Batata are some of the street food she enjoys.

# OPRAH WINFREY

**Chairwoman & CEO, Oprah Winfrey Network**

Oprah Winfrey is a renowned American media mogul, television personality, author, and philanthropist. She established Harpo Productions in 1986, which has yielded many popular television shows and films. In 2000, Winfrey released The Oprah Magazine, and has written numerous best-selling books. Aside from her success in media and entertainment, Oprah is known for her philanthropy. She has donated millions of dollars to various causes, including education, health care, and disaster relief. Oprah is a passionate cook, enjoys doing yoga and going on hikes.





# CAROL B. TOMÉ

CEO, UPS

Carol B. Tomé is an American businesswoman who is best known for her role as the CEO of UPS, a global logistics company. She has held executive roles with various companies, and her financial understanding and ability to lead strategically have been widely recognized.

Tomé was CFO at Home Depot for over a decade and engaged in various philanthropic activities. In addition, she is also known for her focus on innovation and sustainability, and has prioritized these issues during her time at UPS. She is an avid hiker and enjoys spending time in the outdoors.

# CORIE BARRY

CEO, Best Buy

Corie Barry is an American businesswoman who is currently the CEO of Best Buy, one of the largest consumer electronics retailers in the world. Barry made history as the first female CEO of Best Buy in the 50 years since its inception. During her tenure, she has pushed for digital changes, such as same-day delivery and curbside pickup services, allowing Best Buy to stay competitive with major online retailers. Barry is also a vocal advocate for diversity and inclusion in the workplace.





# ARIANNA HUFFINGTON

**Co-Founder, The Huffington Post**

Arianna Huffington is a Greek-American author, journalist, and entrepreneur, who is best known as the co-founder and former editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post, a popular news and opinion website. She is also a prolific writer and commentator on topics related to politics, media, and culture.

In addition to her work with The Huffington Post, Huffington is also the author of several books on topics related to politics, personal development, and spirituality. She is a frequent speaker and commentator on issues related to media and technology, and is a vocal advocate for mindfulness and wellness.

# ARUNA JAYANTHI

**Managing Director, Capgemini - Latin America and Canada**

Aruna Jayanthi is an Indian-American businesswoman who is known for her leadership in the global technology industry. She has held several high-profile positions in Capgemini. She has been recognized as one of the most influential women in the technology sector.

She served as the CEO of Capgemini India from 2011 to 2016 and was instrumental in expanding the company's presence in the region.





# ARUNDHATI BHATTACHARYA

**Chairperson & CEO, Salesforce India**

Arundhati Bhattacharya is an Indian banker who served as the first woman chairperson of the State Bank of India (SBI), one of the largest public sector banks in India. Bhattacharya is known for her efforts to modernize and transform SBI. She introduced several innovative initiatives, such as the SBI Digital Village project, which aimed to provide banking services to remote areas of the country through digital channels.

In 2020 she was hired as the chairperson and CEO for the India division of Salesforce, the global giant in CRM.

# CARLY FIORINA

**Former CEO, Hewlett-Packard**

Carly Fiorina is a renowned American businesswoman and politician who has made a lasting mark on history. In 1999, Carly Fiorina made history as the first female executive to be chosen to lead a Fortune Top 20 company when she was appointed as the CEO of Hewlett-Packard (HP). During her tenure, she worked diligently to devise and implement strategies for reviving HP's business operations.

Fiorina has also consulted various government agencies and non-profit organizations and is a philanthropist dedicated to promoting education and entrepreneurial ventures. Not to mention, she is a breast cancer survivor!





# JANICE BRYANT HOWROYD

## Founder & CEO, The ActOne Group

Janice Bryant Howroyd is making history as a trailblazing businesswoman, becoming the first African American female to own a billion-dollar business. In 1978, The Act One Group was founded with just \$1,500. The company now generates over \$3 billion in revenue and operates in 33 countries.

She was selected by former President Barack Obama to serve as a White House appointee and continues to serve under the current administration, as an Ambassador of Energy. Mrs. Howroyd gives generously through funding and advocacy for STEM education, particularly for women and minorities. Additionally, Howroyd is the author of "The Art of Work."

# JAYSHREE ULLAL

## President and CEO, Arista Networks

Jayshree Ullal is a successful business leader known for her role as CEO of Arista Networks, a leading computer networking company, and board member of Snowflake, a cloud computing company. Ullal's leadership helped Arista become a major player in cloud networking, culminating in a historic IPO in 2014. The company has also been recognized for its commitment to sustainability and corporate responsibility.

With a net worth of \$1.9 billion, she is recognized as one of America's richest self-made women.





# GEISHA J. WILLIAMS

**Former CEO, PG&E Corporation**

Geisha J. Williams is a remarkable leader in the corporate realm. In 2017, she achieved a major milestone by becoming the first Latina CEO of a Fortune 200 company, PG&E Corporation. Under her direction, PG&E took major steps in sustainability initiatives, such as investing heavily in renewable energy sources and decreasing its carbon footprint.

Williams is a member of the Supervisory Board of Siemens Energy, Chair of the Board of Directors of Osmose Utility Services, member of Artera Services Board of Directors and a trustee of the Bipartisan Policy Center and the University of Miami.

She is also a member of the Salesforce Global Advisory Board.

# INDRA NOOYI

**Former CEO and Chairperson, PepsiCo**

Indra Nooyi is an Indian-American business executive and former CEO of PepsiCo. She served as CEO of PepsiCo from 2006 to 2018, becoming one of the most influential and successful women in the business world.

Nooyi is known for her focus on corporate sustainability, innovation, and the empowerment of women in the workplace. During her tenure as CEO, she oversaw the expansion of PepsiCo's product lines to include healthier options and led the company's efforts to reduce its environmental footprint.





# KAREN S. LYNCH

**President & CEO, CVS Health Corporation**

Karen S. Lynch is an American businesswoman who is currently the CEO of CVS Health Corporation, a healthcare company that operates pharmacies, clinics, and other healthcare services. She assumed the position of CEO in February 2021, becoming the first woman to lead the company.

Lynch is known for her focus on using technology and data to improve healthcare outcomes and for her efforts to make healthcare more accessible and affordable.

# KIRAN MAZUMDAR SHAW

**Executive Chairperson and Founder,  
Biocon Limited**

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw is an Indian businesswoman and entrepreneur who is the founder and current Executive Chairperson of Biocon Limited, a biotechnology company. She is one of India's most successful and prominent businesswomen.

Shaw founded Biocon in 1978 with a seed capital of just Rs.10,000 (\$140 at the time), and grew the company into a leading player in the biotechnology industry.

She has received numerous awards and honors, including the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan, two of India's highest civilian honors.





# PADMASREE WARRIOR

**Founder, President and CEO, Fable  
Ex CTO, Cisco Systems**

Padmasree Warrior is an Indian-American technology executive who has held several senior leadership positions at major technology companies. Warrior began her career as an engineer at Motorola, where she worked for over 20 years and rose through the ranks to become the company's Chief Technology Officer (CTO). She later served as the CTO of Cisco Systems, where she was responsible for driving the company's innovation strategy and leading its technology development efforts. She has received numerous awards and honors for her contributions to technology and society.

# RADHIKA GUPTA

**Managing Director & CEO,  
Edelweiss Asset Management**

Radhika Gupta is the managing director and Chief Executive Officer of India's first billion-dollar mutual fund enterprise, Edelweiss Asset Management. She was awarded the Young Global Leader award by the World Economic Forum in 2022. She is also a member of several industry associations and initiatives aimed at supporting women in finance.

Gupta takes delight in Delhi's chaat as her favorite street food and is also passionate about investing in diamonds. Udaipur and Meghalaya are her preferred holiday destinations, and she looks forward to visiting Kashmir shortly.





# ROSALIND G. BREWER

**CEO, Walgreens Boots Alliance**

Rosalind G. Brewer is an American businesswoman and the CEO of Walgreens Boots Alliance, a multinational retail pharmacy chain. In 2021, Rosalind Brewer made history as the CEO of Walgreens, becoming one of only two African-American female CEOs of Fortune 500 companies. She has also served as the President and CEO of Sam's Club, a division of Walmart, where she was responsible for driving the company's growth strategy and leading its transformation efforts.

Brewer is also actively involved in several philanthropic initiatives, and has been recognized for her contributions to society and business.

# ROSHNI NADAR

**Chairperson, HCL Technologies**

Roshni Nadar is an Indian businesswoman and philanthropist who serves as the Chairperson of HCL Technologies, a multinational IT services company. Under Nadar's leadership, HCL Technologies has become one of the largest and most successful IT services companies in India, with a global presence and a reputation for innovation and customer service.

Nadar is also actively involved in several philanthropic initiatives and has established the Shiv Nadar Foundation, which supports education and healthcare initiatives in India. In addition to her business and philanthropic work, Roshni Nadar is also a trained classical musician.





# LEENA NAIR

**Global CEO, Chanel**

Leena Nair is an Indian business executive who is the Global CEO of Chanel. Nair previously served as the Chief Human Resource Officer of Unilever and member of the Unilever Leadership Executive. She was the first woman and the first non-European to hold this position.

Nair is known for her expertise in human resources and her efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

To keep her life balanced, Nair starts each day with 20 minutes of meditation and ends it by writing in her gratitude book.

# MARY BARRA

**CEO & Chairperson, General Motors**

Mary Barra is an American business executive who is the current Chairman and CEO of General Motors (GM), a global automotive company. She became the first female CEO of a major global automaker when she took over the position in January 2014.

She has transformed GM significantly, focusing on innovation, efficiency, and safety. During her tenure, Barra improved the company's financial performance, undertaken a major recall to address safety concerns, and improved safety protocols.





# SHARMISTHA DUBEY

**Former CEO, Match Group**

Sharmistha Dubey is an Indian-American businesswoman who served as the CEO of Match Group, which owns online dating platforms like Tinder, Match, OkCupid, Hinge and other online dating platforms. Her journey with the Match Group began in 2006, when she handled multiple roles. She was made the Chief Operating Officer of Tinder in 2017.

Dubey is known for her expertise in digital transformation, innovation, and growth strategy, and has been recognized for her contributions to the technology industry.

# SUSAN WOJCICKI

**Former CEO, YouTube**

Susan Wojcicki is an American technology executive who is best known for being the CEO of YouTube. She joined Google in 1998 as its 16th employee and was instrumental in the development of Google's advertising and AdSense platforms, which have become some of the most successful online advertising tools in the world. She is also credited with helping to acquire several key companies for Google, including YouTube, which Google bought for \$1.65 billion in 2006.





# VINITA BALI

**Former CEO, Britannia Industries**

Vinita Bali is an Indian businesswoman who is known for her contributions to the consumer goods industry. Bali is best known for her tenure as the CEO of Britannia Industries Limited, one of India's leading food companies. Under her leadership, Britannia became one of the most valuable food companies in India, and was recognized for its focus on innovation and sustainability. Currently, Bali serves on the Board of Directors at Cognizant. Bali's expertise in areas such as branding, marketing, and innovation helped to guide Cognizant's strategic direction and growth.

# ZIA MODY

**Founder and Managing Partner, AZB & Partners**

Zia Mody is an Indian lawyer and corporate law expert. She is the founder and managing partner of AZB & Partners, one of the leading law firms in India, which she established in 2004. She is also known for her contributions to the development of corporate law in India, and has been involved in several initiatives aimed at promoting good corporate governance and responsible business practices.

As for her personal preferences, Mody loves travelling and her favorite holiday destination is Kenya. When it comes to street food, her favorite is Pav Bhaji.





# URSULA BURNS

**Former CEO, Xerox**

Ursula Burns is an American businesswoman and the former CEO of Xerox Corporation, a multinational document management company. She was the first African American woman to serve as the CEO of a Fortune 500 company.

During her tenure, she oversaw the company's expansion into new areas such as business services and digital printing.

In addition to her work at Xerox, Burns has been involved in several initiatives aimed at promoting diversity and inclusion in the workplace and expanding opportunities for underrepresented groups in STEM fields. Burns is an avid photographer and enjoys listening to music, particularly jazz and gospel.

# VANDANA LUTHRA

**Founder, VLCC Health Care Ltd.**

Vandana Luthra is an Indian businesswoman and founder of VLCC Health Care Ltd, a leading wellness and beauty services company. Luthra started her career as a nutritionist, and later went on to establish VLCC in 1989. Under Luthra's leadership, VLCC has become one of the most recognized and trusted wellness brands in India, with a presence in over 150 cities worldwide.

She is known for her focus on innovation, quality, and customer service, and has been recognized with several awards and honors for her contributions to the industry, including the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honors.





# MELINDA FRENCH GATES

**Chairperson of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

From tech leader to global philanthropist, Melinda French Gates is a force for equity. Co-founding the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, she champions global health, particularly emphasizing gender equality as a key to progress. Her focus on empowering women farmers, family planning access, and disease eradication programs has demonstrably improved millions of lives.

A vocal advocate for girls' education and scientific advancement, French Gates is a true leader in the fight for a healthier, more just world.

# GINNI ROMETTY

**Former CEO of IBM**

Ginni Rometty, a tech trailblazer, became IBM's first female CEO (2012-2020), shattering glass ceilings. She guided the company through a digital revolution, emphasizing cloud computing (from 2011) and artificial intelligence (emerging in 2014).

Rometty championed expansion in emerging markets and advocated for diversity within IBM. Her leadership earned her recognition as one of the world's most powerful women, though her tenure also saw revenue challenges.





# MEG WHITMAN

**Former CEO of eBay and Hewlett Packard**

Meg Whitman is a powerhouse tech leader who shattered glass ceilings throughout her career.

As former CEO of eBay and Hewlett-Packard, she steered these giants through periods of immense growth and innovation (2003-2014 at eBay, 2011-2015 at HP). Whitman's focus on data-driven decision making and her strategic vision are hallmarks of her success. She is a true role model for aspiring women leaders in tech..

# CLARA SHIH

**CEO of Salesforce AI**

Social media leader Clara Shih currently wears two hats. She's on the board of Hearsay Social, a company she co-founded in 2009 to tackle social media compliance for businesses.

Impressively, she also holds the position of CEO for the Service Cloud CRM business at Salesforce.com, a role she began in 2021. This tech wiz and former Starbucks board member is a true multi-tasker, and rumor has it she's a talented violinist too!





# MALVIKA HEGDE

CEO of Café Coffee Day

Malvika Hegde's strategic efforts as CEO of Café Coffee Day have significantly contributed to the brand's increased value and revitalization. She spearheaded initiatives to enhance customer experience, introducing new menu items and refreshing store designs. Hegde's focus on operational efficiency and cost management has bolstered CCD's financial health. Her commitment to sustainability, with initiatives like eco-friendly packaging, has resonated with consumers, further solidifying CCD's position as a beloved and forward-thinking coffee destination, resulting in a notable increase in CCD's overall brand value.

# VENTURE CAPITALISTS

## StrongHer Ventures: Empowering Women in Venture Capital

### Women: Shaping the Future of Investment

StrongHer Ventures celebrates the impactful contributions women make in venture capital and private equity. Their vision and leadership drive not only their own success but also pave the way for future generations of female investors and leaders.

### A Legacy of Impact: Women Outperform in VC

Women have a rich history of shaping venture capital. Recent 2024 data showcases the power of female leadership, with women-led VC firms outperforming male-led ones by a significant 63%. This data highlights the crucial role women play in successful investments.

### The Gender Gap Persists

Despite the progress, global gender equality in business investment remains a challenge. Only 3% of investment capital goes to women-led businesses, and women represent a minority in key roles - 11% of investment partners and 15% of angel investors.

### StrongHer Ventures: Building a More Inclusive Future

StrongHer Ventures is committed to bridging this gap. We strive for a future where more women become general partners, fostering inclusive investment cultures that empower all genders. By championing diversity and backing female-led startups, we unlock innovation and growth potential. This, in turn, inspires more women to enter venture capital, creating a more balanced industry.

### Honoring Leaders, Inspiring the Next Generation

StrongHer Ventures honors these trailblazing women for their achievements, inspiring future female entrepreneurs and investors. Supporting women in leadership roles will create a more inclusive and successful venture capital industry for everyone.





# ANKITA VASHISTHA

**Founder & Managing Partner  
of StrongHer Ventures**

Ankita Vashistha is a highly experienced businesswoman and investor. She founded Saha Fund and StrongHer Ventures, the first and leading venture capital fund to invest in global women entrepreneurship in technology. She has spent over 15 years in the industry.

Bali is her go-to destination for vacations, with many more beautiful places to explore. Her favorite street food is Indian chat and Chinese. Her to do bucket list includes travelling the world through food, opening her own restaurant and living and working in as many countries as possible to connect with the local culture.

# ANJALI BANSAL

**Founder of Avaana Capital**

Anjali Bansal is a highly-acclaimed venture capitalist and entrepreneur. She founded Avaana Capital, which manages Avaana Climate and Sustainability Fund, investing in technology and innovation-led start-ups catalyzing climate solutions and sustainability. Before launching Avaana Capital, Bansal was a Global Partner and Managing Director at TPG Growth, a major international private equity organization.

In an interview, Bansal has spoken about how her training in classical dance has helped her develop skills such as discipline, focus, and grace, which have been valuable in her career as a venture capitalist and board member.





# ANU DUGGAL

## Founding Partner of Female Founders Fund

Anu Duggal is a prominent American businesswoman and venture capitalist. She is the founding partner of Female Founders Fund, a venture capital fund that backs female-founded early-stage enterprises. The company has invested in more than 45 of the most successful female-led businesses in the United States. Anu began her tech career as a co-founder of Exclusively.in, a private sale e-commerce company backed by Accel & Tiger which Myntara acquired.

She has been praised for her impact on diversifying venture capital.

# DEBORAH FARRINGTON

## Co-Founder and Managing Partner of StarVest Partners

Deborah Farrington is the Co-Founder and Managing Partner of StarVest Partners LP, a venture capital firm in New York City. StarVest invests in technology-enabled commercial services such as software-as-a-service ("SaaS"), data and analytics, and internet marketing. Farrington has a suit of remarkable exits under her belt.

Farrington has been a strong supporter of women entrepreneurs and investors who believes that New York has been a very fruitful place for successful women entrepreneurs and VCs.





# MAR HERSHENSON

**Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Pear VC**

Mar Hershenson is an acclaimed entrepreneur and venture capitalist. As the Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Pear VC, a venture capital firm specializing in early-stage digital firms, she has been an important driving force in the industry. Before launching Pear VC, Hershenson was a part of the founding teams of many successful businesses, such as Barcelona Design and Sabio Laboratories.

Hershenson's favorite holiday destination is Spain, the choicest street food being Carnitas Tacos. Dark chocolate emptied her pocket and Patagonia is in her to-do bucket list.

# MARIA VELISSARIS

**Founding and Managing Partner of SteelSky Ventures**

Maria Velissaris is an accomplished entrepreneur and investor in the healthcare and technology sectors. She is the Founding and managing partner of SteelSky Ventures, the leading women's health VC fund. SteelSky Ventures invests in companies that improve access, care and outcomes in women's health with a lens towards health equity.

Maria's ultimate holiday destination is anywhere she can spend time with her amazing family. Through her philanthropy, she has provided college scholarships for underserved students in Atlanta. Maria's to-do list includes a noble goal - to help commercialize a pain-free mammogram.





# JESSE DRAPER

**Founder and General partner of  
Halogen Ventures**

Jesse Draper is an accomplished American investor, Entrepreneur, and Television Personality. She is the creator and general partner of Halogen Ventures, a venture capital firm that specializes in providing capital to female-led consumer technology companies.

In addition, she founded and served as CEO of Valley Girl Inc. She is also the General Partner at Valley Girl Ventures.

# KIRSTEN GREEN

**Founder and Managing Partner  
of Forerunner Ventures**

Kirsten Green is an acclaimed venture capitalist and the Founder and Managing Partner of Forerunner Ventures. Her success in the industry has been well-recognized and celebrated.

She has received various honors and accolades for her accomplishments, Kirsten believes that in order to capture the greatest opportunities you must have an open mind throughout your journey.





# MARY MEEKER

**Founder and General Partner at BOND**

Mary Meeker is a renowned general partner at BOND, a venture capital firm that invests in early-stage to late-stage technology companies.

She has been a major figure in the tech industry, providing insightful analysis of industry trends and investment opportunities. Before her current role, she was a partner at the venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins from 2019 until now. Her impressive knowledge of the tech sphere and ability to accurately assess potential investments have earned her a respected place in the VC world.

She is an active philanthropist and has supported a number of charitable causes related to education, health, and the environment.

# MIRIAM RIVERA

**CEO, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Ulu Ventures**

Miriam Rivera was an influential Mexican-American lawyer, businessperson, and defender of transgender rights. She collaborated to create Ulu Ventures, a venture capital firm that invests in varied and underrepresented entrepreneurs. Before that, Miriam had served as a lawyer at various law firms. Rivera was also a prominent advocate for transgender rights. She is very committed to expanding diversity in both the entrepreneurial and investment communities.

Miriam is a big fan of street food from all cultures, yet her favorite is elote and ripe fruit/fresh juices. Hawaii is her favorite destination. Running shoes and jewelry has always emptied her pocket. Aspiring to see Aurora Borealis.





# SERENA WILLIAMS

**Founder of Serena Ventures**

Serena Williams is an accomplished tennis star and former World No. 1 player, having won 23 Grand Slam singles titles. Beyond her tennis career, she established her investment firm, Serena Ventures, dedicated to helping female and minority entrepreneurs. Additionally, she has created her clothing line, S by Serena, and invested in companies such as Coinbase, Bumble, and Impossible Foods.

Serena Williams is a strong advocate for social justice and equal rights. Her favorite holiday destination is Miami, Florida and her favorite street food is tacos.

# TRISH COSTELLO

**Founder and CEO of Portfolia**

Trish Costello is a renowned entrepreneur and venture capitalist who committed her career to help and empower women and those who are underrepresented in technology. She is the founder and CEO of Portfolia, a venture capital platform, and was also the Co-Founder and Former Manager of the Kauffman Fellows Program.

Her accomplishments have been instrumental in advancing the industry and establishing a lasting legacy.





# PADMAJA RUPAREL

**Co-Founder of Indian Angel Network (IAN)**

Padmaja Ruparel is a veteran in the investment industry, founding the IAN angel network and Fund to invest in seed and early-stage startups in India. The fund's portfolio of 135+ businesses across 17 sectors and 7 countries aims to transform India's entrepreneurial landscape. By doing so, it aims to be the largest horizontal platform in the country.

Ruparel is a strong advocate for gender diversity and is committed to promoting more women entrepreneurs in India. She is an avid traveler and enjoys exploring new cultures and cuisines.

# RENUKA RAMNATH

**Founder and CEO of Multiples Alternative Asset Management**

Renuka Ramnath is one of the most experienced private equity fund managers in India. She played a pivotal role in shaping the Indian private equity market both in terms of leading pioneering investments as well as opening new pockets of capital for investment into India. She is the founder and CEO of Multiples Alternative Asset Management, a private equity firm based in Mumbai. She launched Multiples in 2009, and the firm has since grown to become one of India's leading private equity investors.





# EILEEN BURBIDGE

**American businessperson**

Eileen Burbidge, a visionary leader in tech investment, has shaped London's booming tech scene. Co-founding Passion Capital, Burbidge has a golden touch for spotting promising tech ventures, like her investment in Monzo bank. Her background in marketing at tech giants like Apple and Skype honed her business acumen. A passionate advocate for entrepreneurs and innovation, Burbidge even served as the UK Treasury's special envoy for fintech.

# ANN MIURA-KO

**Co-founding partner at Floodgate**

Ann Miura-Ko, a celebrated venture capitalist and founding partner at Floodgate, is renowned for her early investments in groundbreaking startups like Lyft and TaskRabbit. With a Ph.D. from Stanford, she teaches entrepreneurship there and is known for her strategic insight and commitment to empowering entrepreneurs. Miura-Ko's relentless pursuit of innovation continues to shape the tech landscape, solidifying her as a trailblazer in the industry.





# LUCIANA LIXANDRU

**Partner at Sequoia**

Luciana Lixandru, a distinguished partner at Sequoia Capital, boasts a seasoned career with impactful roles at Deliveroo, ViPath, and Stripe. Recognized for her strategic investment acumen, she navigates the tech landscape with precision. Luciana's astute insights have shaped the success of prominent companies. Her commitment to fostering innovation aligns with her passion for technology and entrepreneurship, making her a respected figure in the venture capital realm, driving transformative growth and shaping the future of the tech industry.

# AARTI GUPTA

**CIO - Family Office DM Gupta & Anikarth Ventures**

A visionary leader, Dr. Aarti Gupta has blazed a trail in investments and women's empowerment. Guiding the DM Gupta family office and championing startups at Anikarth Ventures, she's a champion for female founders. Her expertise extends beyond finance; she's an independent director and sits on startup boards. As a TEDx speaker, Dr. Gupta ignites passion for financial literacy and female empowerment, inspiring generations.





# ARCHANA SRIVATSAN

Impact Investor | Board Member | Startup Mentor, Gates Foundation

Archana Srivatsan, is the Head of South Asia Venture Capital at Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, leading the USD 2.5 billion Strategic Investment Fund, investing in for-profit tech companies. Leveraging her expertise, she drives initiatives for health-tech, fintech, climate tech, and women's innovation, weaving impact into business strategy. She mentors and advises tech startups across the UK, South Asia, and Africa. Archana is personally committed to advancing gender equality, particularly through initiatives supporting women's education and healthcare empowerment.

# BHAWNA BHATNAGAR

Co-Founder We Founder Circle & EvolveX

Bhawna Bhatnagar, is co-founder of We Founder Circle, a leading angel and early stage investment platform and is a trailblazer in the global startup community. With a background in product, finance and tech, she empowers founders through mentorship and funding. Her success is marked by a diverse portfolio of startups. Beyond her entrepreneurial zeal, Bhawna finds joy in traveling, exploring diverse cuisines, and advocating for women's empowerment through mentorship and networking.





# VANI KOLA

**Managing director  
of Kalaari Capital**

Having invested in over 210 companies, Vani Kola is a very respected name in the venture capital industry. As the managing director of Kalaari Capital, she has been a vocal proponent of workplace diversity and has made it her mission to support female entrepreneurs and leaders in the startup world. Through her success and dedication, Vani has become an inspirational figure in the Indian business landscape.

Vani Kola is also known for her philanthropic activities and has been actively involved in supporting social causes such as education and healthcare.

# FOUNDERS

## Women Entrepreneurs: Making Strides in the Global Economy

### Rising Force

Women-owned businesses are burgeoning globally, disrupting industries with innovative solutions. Despite challenges like gender bias and funding limitations, they drive economic growth and wield undeniable influence.

### Economic Powerhouse

In the United States alone, women-owned businesses are a significant economic driver, generating over \$1.8 trillion annually and employing over 9.2 million individuals. Access to funding is improving, with female-founded startups securing a record-breaking \$3.3 billion in venture capital in 2020.

### Impact Beyond Profit

Women-led businesses often prioritize social and environmental responsibility. A significant 74% demonstrate a positive social or environmental impact, focusing on sustainability, diversity, and inclusion. This focus transcends financial gain, creating a broader positive societal influence.

### Performance and Diversity

Research reveals a link between diverse leadership and financial success, with companies led by women showing a 63% higher return on investment. Inclusivity not only promotes fairness but also boosts economic performance.

### The Call to Action

This report celebrates the achievements of trailblazing women founders. It aims to inspire and empower women to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams and contribute to building a future where diverse and inclusive leadership is the norm in successful businesses.





# AARTI RAMAKRISHNAN

**Co-Founder and COO, Crayon Data**

Aarti Ramakrishnan is a Co-Founder and the Chief of Operations (COO) for Crayon Data, a business she founded in 2012. She has a combined experience of 18+ years in marketing, analytics, and operations in the BFSI sector.

In 2021, Aarti was honored as part of the IFTA Award for Woman Leader in Fintech.

# AKANKSHA HAZARI

**CEO and Founder, LoveLocal**

Akanksha Hazari is a pioneering tech entrepreneur and the creator of LoveLocal. She has a list of varied accomplishments, from developing a \$200m loan guarantee facility to support Palestinian-owned small businesses to winning the prestigious Hult Prize from former US President Bill Clinton and receiving the Vital Voices Global Economic Empowerment Award 2016, from Secretaries of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Madeleine Albright. Moreover, she is the only Indian tech entrepreneur featured in the book "Vital Voices: 100 Women Using their Power to Empower".





# ANISHA PATNAIK

**Co-Founder, LexStart**

Anisha Patnaik co-founded LexStart, a legal and compliance service for the start-up ecosystem. Drawing on her 18 years of experience in corporate commercial law, Anisha provides comprehensive advice on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, entity formation, shareholder and Co-Founder agreements, investment transactions, and stock incentive structures. Anisha loves traveling and emptied her pocket on her trip to Machu Pichu, Peru. Loves Pani Puri, Anisha's to-do bucket list is to run a bed & breakfast fund, watch great migration, become Asia's largest start-up law firm, and change lives of women.

# ANN MARIE SASTRY

**Founder & CEO, Amesite**

Ann Marie Sastry is a prominent engineer and entrepreneur who founded Amesite and Sakti3. Amesite is a software startup driven by artificial intelligence that provides engaging and cost-effective online courses. They employ artificial intelligence to create personalized settings for students and easier-to-manage interfaces for teachers. She stands as a staunch advocate for science and technology education. She has been honored with the American Physical Society's David Adler Lectureship Award and the University of Michigan's Distinguished University Innovator Award for her accomplishments





# ALIA BHATT

**Founder, Ed-A-Mamma**

Alia Bhatt is an Indian-origin actress who primarily works in Hindi films. She is a very well-known investor and brand endorser who supports various philanthropic causes. Alia Bhatt launched Ed-a-Mamma, a sustainable clothing brand, in November 2020. The startup, that cares about the children and the earth, has recorded a 10x in just 10 months.

Additionally, she has initiated several social causes and supported multiple charities.

# ALICE BENTINCK

**Co-Founder, Entrepreneur First**

Alice Bentinck is a successful entrepreneur and co-founder of Entrepreneur First, a startup accelerator and company builder that supports aspiring entrepreneurs from Europe and Asia.

She has been recognized for her contributions to business and entrepreneurship, including being a Top 25 finalist in the Tech City Movers and Shakers, 2013. In 2016, she was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for her services to business.





# ANNE BODEN

**Founder and CEO, Starling Bank**

Anne Boden, the Welsh tech entrepreneur, is renowned for her accomplishments in finance and banking. In 2018, she was honored with an MBE for her services to financial technology, and her greatest achievement is creating and leading Starling Bank. This mobile-only digital bank has rapidly gained popularity, serving over 2 million customers in the UK. Boden's efforts have truly revolutionized the banking industry.

# ANNE WOJCICKI

**Co-Founder and CEO, 23andMe**

Anne Wojcicki is a Renowned American businesswoman and the Co-Founder and CEO of 23andMe, the widely acclaimed DNA testing firm. After starting her career as a healthcare analyst on Wall Street, Wojcicki switched to the biotech industry and co-launched 23andMe in 2006. The organization enables consumers to gain insight into their ancestry, health hazards, and genetic features, pioneering the area of individual genomics.





# ARUM KANG

**Co-Founder and CEO, Coffee Meets Bagel**

Arum Kang is an acclaimed American businesswoman, and CEO of the renowned dating application Coffee Meets Bagel. She formed the organization together with her sisters, Dawoon and Soo, in 2012. In order to compete with other dating apps, Kang's leadership has assisted the business in addressing issues with consent, privacy, safety, and creating deep connections.

Kang is also a frequent speaker on topics related to entrepreneurship, technology, and women in leadership. She was named one of Fast Company's Most Creative People in Business.

# ASHWINI ASOKAN

**CEO and Co-Founder, Mad Street Den**

Ashwini Asokan is a prominent figure in the Indian startup ecosystem and the co-founder and CEO of Mad Street Den, a computer vision-based artificial intelligence startup that has raised over \$17 million in funding.

Her platform, Vue.ai, is employed by retail and fashion brands worldwide. Before this, Asokan was at Intel and co-founded Jump Games.





# CARYN SEIDMAN BECKER

**Chairman & CEO, Clear**

Caryn Seidman Becker is an accomplished American entrepreneur who currently serves as the Chairman and CEO of Clear, a provider of expedited security-screening services. Under her leadership, the company has grown tremendously and has formed several strategic partnerships in the travel industry.

Seidman Becker has also been recognized for her achievements in business and society and has been presented with various awards. Seidman Becker is also a noted philanthropist and advocates for women's rights and empowerment.

# CHITRA GURNANI DAGA

**Co-Founder and CEO, Thrillophilia**

Chitra is the CEO of Thrillophilia, India's largest travel experience company. Every year, 40 million travellers use Thrillophilia to identify and book meaningful travel experiences. Thrillophilia allows users to find, compare, and book from over 15000 activities worldwide.

She has been acknowledged by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of India for her remarkable work in tourism, and she has been highlighted in several periodicals and internet media as one of India's top women entrepreneurs.





# BEYONCÉ

**Co-Founder, Ivy Park**

Ivy Park is an athleisure apparel line launched in 2016 by American singer Beyoncé through her management business Parkwood Entertainment.

Beyoncé has used her platform as an entrepreneur to support various philanthropic causes and social activism, such as the Formation Scholars program to support women in the arts, and has supported the Black Lives Matter movement through her music and performances.

# BHAVNA SURESH

**Founder, 10Club**

Bhavna Suresh, a serial entrepreneur, closed India's largest seed round with 10Club. International investors and Fireside Ventures co-led the \$40 million financing round. Suresh previously led Lamudi Philippines with a successful exit and founded StyleBank. She holds a Management Strategies degree from HEC Paris and an engineering degree from VTU. Bhavna is an inspirational and strong voice for women and diversity.





# DEMET MUTLU

**Co-Founder, Trendyol**

Demet Mutlu is a renowned Turkish-American entrepreneur and Co-Founder of the highly successful Trendyol. It is Turkey's largest fashion e-commerce platform, and Turkey's first Tech unicorn.

Since its establishment in 2010, this platform has experienced dramatic growth - Trendyol does 60 percent of all online fashion sales in Turkey, working with over 2000 brands via its marketplace and offering its own private labels. The site currently has over 16 million customers, reporting an annual growth of over 100 percent.

# DR. SOMDUTTA SINGH

**Founder, Assiduous Global**

Dr. Somdutta Singh has accomplished various feats throughout her career, and is a serial entrepreneur, leading global e-commerce accelerator Assiduous Global, She recently raised her Series A and has accumulated multiple awards and acknowledgments. She was the Former Vice-Chairperson of the NASSCOM Product Council and WEP core committee.

Her favourite holiday destination is Denmark, where her life partner hails from. She loves Indian street food, particularly Panipuri.





# GEETHA MANJUNATH

**Founder, Niramai**

Geetha Manjunath is the visionary and CEO behind Niramai, a leading healthcare company that uses Artificial Intelligence and non-invasive technology to identify breast cancer. Geetha has spent time with Xerox and Hewlett-Packard and is devoted to empowering women in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Her work has been recognized with several awards and accolades, acknowledging her many contributions to the field.

Her Favorite holiday destination is Himalayas and her favorite street food is Chats/Masala Puri

# HENA MEHTA

**CEO, Basis**

Hena Mehta is the CEO of Basis, India's first and leading financial platform for women. With 15 years of experience in the finance industry, she has worked at Goldman Sachs, Ezetap, and Square. Hena is a passionate advocate for financial literacy and education.

Regarding holidays, she prefers a mix of buzzing cities and laid-back beaches. Hena is also a big fan of Indian street food, particularly gol gappa. She has an undeniable weakness for tech gadgets.





# EYNAT GUEZ

**Co-Founder & CEO, Papaya Global**

Eynat Guez is a highly experienced entrepreneur with over two decades of experience in global payroll and workforce management. She co-founded Papaya Global, a groundbreaking company that offers a technology-driven solution to global payroll management, helping finance leaders and boosting employee experience.

She is among the few female CEOs to reach unicorn status and known to be the only woman in Israel who heads a high-tech unicorn.

# FALGUNI NAYAR

**Founder, Nykaa**

Falguni Nayar is a renowned Indian entrepreneur and the founder of Nykaa, an e-commerce platform renowned for its collection of beauty and personal care products. Before founding Nykaa, Falguni worked for 18 long years at Kotak Mahindra Bank and has since been appreciated for her unique tactics in business and the customer-oriented culture at Nykaa.

Falguni is one of India's self-made women billionaires and recognised for her philanthropic initiatives.





# ISABEL RAFFERTY ZAVALA

**Founder & CEO, Canela Media**

Isabel Rafferty Zavala is an accomplished entrepreneur and the CEO of Canela Media, a digital media technology company based in New York that focuses on Latino and Spanish-speaking communities.

She is also the founder of Mobvious Media, the second-largest Hispanic-focused ad network which got acquired in 2019. Isabel was awarded the Culture Marketing Council's Rising Star Award in 2019 and recently won the EY US Entrepreneur of the Year 2022 National Award after being named a New York regional award winner.

# JAIME SCHMIDT

**Founder, Schmidt's Naturals**

Jaime Schmidt is a renowned American businesswoman and philanthropist. She is the founder of Schmidt's Naturals. This organic and natural personal care products company began as a humble Etsy shop and has since bloomed into a fully-fledged business sold in stores across the globe.

Additionally, she established the Schmidt Family Foundation to back environmental causes and sustainability projects.





# JESSICA ALBA

**Founder, The Honest Company**

Jessica Alba is a multi-faceted woman of many talents. Along with being an established and celebrated actress in blockbuster Hollywood films. She has also achieved financial success as the Founder, of The Honest Company, estimated to be valued at over \$1 billion.

As a philanthropist, Alba actively advocates for environmental causes and donates her time and resources to Baby2Baby.

# JUDITH R. FAULKNER

**CEO and Founder, Epic Systems**

In 1979, Judy Faulkner founded Epic Systems in a basement in Wisconsin, and it has since become the nation's premier medical record software provider. Epic's software is employed by renowned healthcare institutions such as Johns Hopkins and Mayo Clinic, allowing them to securely store and access the medical records of more than 250 million people.





# JENNIFER HYMAN

**Co-Founder and CEO, Rent the Runway**

Jennifer Hyman is a highly accomplished American entrepreneur and the Co-Founder/CEO of Rent the Runway, an online platform for renting designer clothing and accessories.

Hyman is known for her leadership in the fashion and technology industries, as well as for her philanthropic work in support of women and girls.

# JESS ANUNA

**Founder & CEO, Klasha**

Jessica Anuna is the Founder and CEO of Klasha, a digital startup that creates African cross-border commerce solutions. Klasha Business enables worldwide merchants to receive payments from African customers utilizing African money systems and currencies, with rewards in hard currencies.

Jessica has already amassed a lifetime of accomplishments at what many would consider a relatively early age for a professional woman: she has worked for two of the world's most prominent web corporations and started three online enterprises.





# JULIA HARTZ

**Co-Founder, Eventbrite**

Julia Hartz is an accomplished American entrepreneur and the Co-Founder, Eventbrite, an innovative global self service online event ticketing and management platform. From bootstrapping to billion, Hartz has achieved remarkable success and has established Eventbrite as a major player in the field.

Under her leadership, Eventbrite has grown globally and has also been voted several times as the best company to work for in San Francisco.

# KANIKA TEKRIWAL

**Founder & CEO, JetsetGo**

Kanika Tekriwal is the successful CEO of JetsetGo and the founder of India's first aircraft leasing organization. She is recognized as one of the youngest self made women entrepreneurs in India.

Kanika likes to invest in experiences over material possessions, such as travel, wellness retreats, and quality time with family and friends. Her favorite holiday destinations include the Maldives and St. Moritz; back at home, she enjoys indulging in sev puri from street vendors in Bombay.





# MASABA GUPTA

**Founder, House of Masaba**

Masaba Gupta is a highly acclaimed fashion designer from India, renowned for her one-of-a-kind, daring designs. She established her fashion and lifestyle brand, House of Masaba, in 2009.

Masaba has received many awards and accolades, including the Vogue India Fashion Fund, the Grazia Young Fashion Award, and the Femina Women Achievers Award.

# MEENA GANESH

**Co-Founder and Chairperson, Portea Medical**

Meena Ganesh is the leading figure of Portea Medical, India's top in-home healthcare provider. As Chairperson and Non-Executive Director, she has spearheaded the company's growth and success.

She has been the proud recipient of several accolades, including the Kempegowda Award by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike in 2020.





# KATE HUDSON

**Co-Founder, Fabletics**

Kate Hudson is a celebrated American actress, author, and Entrepreneur. She made her mark in the business world by co-founding Fabletics, a popular online retailer specializing in women's sportswear and accessories, in 2013.

She is an influential figure at the company, holding approximately 20% of the business and acting as its spokesperson and ambassador. With her success and dedication, Hudson has become an inspiration for many.

# MABEL CHACKO

**Co-Founder, Open**

Mabel is the co-founder and COO of Open, a neobanking platform and the celebrated 100th unicorn of India.

Mabel is a serial entrepreneur, with more than 15 years of experience in the financial technology space, Founded CashNxt and Zwitch, and spent time at PayU and Citrus. An alumna of IIM Bengaluru, she has won the "Startup leader of the year" award hosted by MEITY and Nasscom.





# MEETA SHARMA GUPTA

**Founder, Shumee**

Meeta Sharma Gupta, an alumnus of IIT and holder of a Ph.D. from Harvard University, has returned to India to spark a revolution in the toy industry. Upon noticing the dearth of natural and secure options in the market, she has established a company that manufactures safe and secure toys for children.

Meeta dreams of visiting New Zealand and she loves Gol Gappes, loves fashionable dresses, and her to-do bucket list that includes Norway, Argentina, FIFA World Cup, and meeting Roger Federer.

# MELANIE PERKINS

**Co-Founder, Canva**

Melanie Perkins is an acclaimed Australian entrepreneur and the Co-Founder, Canva, an innovative online graphic design platform. At 19, she launched her entrepreneurial career with Fusion Books, a platform for creating school yearbooks. Her success with Canva has established her as one of the wealthiest women in Australia. Furthermore, she has been celebrated for her leadership skills.





# NEHA BAGARIA

**Founder, JobsForHer**

Neha Bagaria, the founder of JobsForHer, has made significant strides in advocating women's rights in India. She has given numerous lectures on promoting women's empowerment and leadership. Under her leadership, JobsForHer has become India's largest digital platform for women seeking to relaunch their careers, with over 2.5 million users and collaborations with 3,000+ companies.

Neha loves visiting Ski Slopes and emptied her pocket on Globe-Trotting. She Loves Bombay Sev Puri, Neha's to-do bucket list is to go on a trip to Machu Picchu.

# NEHA MOTWANI

**Co-Founder and CEO, Fitternity**

Neha Motwani is an experienced businesswoman and the Co-Founder and CEO of Fitternity, a highly regarded health and fitness platform in India. She has a Bachelor's degree in Management Studies and an MBA, having spent the past 5 years in HR and risk consulting.

When taking a break from her hectic schedule, Neha loves to visit Greece and indulge in her favorite street food - Vada Pav.





# NAIYYA SAGGI

**Co-Founder, Good Glamm Group  
Founder, BabyChakra**

Naiyya Saggi is a thriving entrepreneur who has played a key role in establishing both the Good Glamm Group and Baby Chakra, an inventive platform that simplifies the journey of parenthood. She is an alumna of Harvard Business School and has gained global recognition from tech giants like Google, Facebook, and Microsoft for her remarkable accomplishments.

Apart from her entrepreneurial success, Naiyya is devoted to fostering workplace diversity and inclusivity while encouraging leaders to celebrate and acknowledge the success of women leaders.

# NEERU SHARMA

**Co-Founder and Executive Director, Infibeam**

Neeru Sharma is the co-founder and director of platform business service at Infibeam, one of the first Indian online retailers to go public and one of the few e-commerce start-ups that is profitable. Sharma has worked at TCS, Alcatel, and Amazon, where she worked with Jeff Bezos. She operated out of a small apartment office in Daryaganj, New Delhi, educating people across the supply chain on the prospects of the e-commerce platform.





# PERNILLA NYRENSTEN

**Founder, RevolutionRace**

Pernilla Nyrensten founded RevolutionRace in 2013 to create affordable and high-quality outdoor gear, becoming a leading clothing brand in Europe. She is recognized as one of Sweden's top female entrepreneurs and is involved in social and environmental initiatives. RevolutionRace has sustainable and ethical practices, uses environment friendly materials, and is committed to fair labor practices.

She values the input and ideas of her team members and works to create a positive and inclusive workplace culture.

# POOJA SAREEN

**Co-Founder, Inc42 Media**

Pooja Sareen has been spearheading Inc42 Media as its Co-Founder since its inception. As a leading voice for the Indian startup ecosystem, Inc42 has published over 20,000 stories and 35+ reports, reaching an impressive 20 million people in India each month. Moreover, her brilliant efforts have been recognized. She was named one of the Top 25 Voices of LinkedIn India for 2018. She engages with over 700K people daily and was even granted the Indian Women Excellence and Leadership Award in the Media category during the National Women Leadership Summit 2019.





# RADHIKA GHAI

**Co-Founder, Kindlife**

Radhika Ghai is a prominent Indian serial entrepreneur. She is the Founder of Kindlife, a clean and conscious e-commerce platform. Earlier she was the Co-Founder of ShopClues, one of India's leading ecommerce marketplaces.

She was recognized as one of the first women to enter the unicorn club in India.

# RAGINI DAS

**Co-Founder, leap.club**

Ragini Das co-founded leap.club, a social-professional network catering to women. Having had six years of experience at Zomato, she has led several sales and growth teams and was responsible for the international expansion of Zomato Gold. Ragini wants leap.club to provide a nurturing environment for women's professional development while prioritizing their learning and growth. Ragini loves Bali. She enjoys tangy Gol Gappas in her home country. She understands the importance of taking a break and plans to do a digital detox on a serene beach for 10 days.





# PRITI SAWANT

**Founder & CEO, JoulestoWatts  
Business Solutions Pvt Ltd**

JoulestoWatts is a major provider of IT personnel solutions, focusing in permanent and contract labour, as well as the Hire-Train-Deploy approach. They have a proven track record of matching the right people with the appropriate career openings, with 200+ clients and 4000+ employees on the payroll. The devoted team of recruiters works relentlessly to ensure that each placement is a great fit.

Preeti Sawant loves London for its culture and history and can't resist spicy Vada Pav as her favorite street food. She spends most of her money on travel and has big plans for the future.

# PRIYANKA CHOPRA

**Founder, Anomaly**

Priyanka Chopra is a multi-faceted actor, investor, and entrepreneur. In 2019, she co-founded Anomaly Haircare in partnership with Maesa. The brand was officially launched in the US in 2021 and announced an exclusive tie-up with Target stores. Chopra has also invested in various tech startups, such as Bumble, Holberton School, Apartment List, Perfect Moment, and Genies. Moreover, she opened a restaurant and established Purple Pebble Pictures.





# RAJOSHI GHOSH

**Co-Founder & COO, Hasura**

Rajoshi Ghosh is an accomplished entrepreneur, founder of 5 additional startups, World Economic Forum Global Shaper and Chief Operating Officer of Hasura, a product development company. Before joining Hasura, Rajoshi co-founded 34 Cross, which provided consulting services to Fortune 500 companies for the transition from monolithic to microservices architecture. She is also the founder of Find A Kadai and Owlink and a founding member of the esteemed Tech Saloon.

# RESHMA SAUJANI

**Founder & CEO, Girls Who Code**

Reshma Saujani is a renowned figure in the technology world, having founded and served as CEO of Girls Who Code. This nonprofit organization focuses on closing the gender gap in technology by teaching girls to code. With a law degree from Yale and prior experience as an attorney and activist, her influence has been far-reaching. Saujani has delivered multiple TED Talks and has written several books, including the best-selling "Girls Who Code: Learn to Code and Change the World."





# SAIREE CHAHAL

**Founder and CEO, SHEROES**

Sairee Chahal is the founder and CEO of SHEROES, a virtual space with more than 20 million female users that offers career and business openings for women. She has been a beacon of hope for many. She has also established Fleximoms, an organization providing adaptable women's work opportunities.

Sairee Chahal loves to travel, with Hawaii being her favorite holiday destination. She enjoys elote and ripe fruits with fresh juices from street vendors. She has a weakness for jewelry, on which she empties her pockets. She dreams of seeing Aurora Borealis

# SARA BLAKELY

**Founder, Spanx**

Sara Blakely has attained remarkable accomplishments in the business and entrepreneurial realms. Through her innovative and superior products, she has been a driving force in the shapewear industry, leading her company to become a multi-billion-dollar firm with an international presence.

Blakely is a well-known philanthropist and advocates for women's health and education, in addition to her work with Spanx.





# ROBYN RIHANNA FENTY

**Founder, Fenty Beauty**

Rihanna is a successful entrepreneur, having launched several businesses including Fenty Beauty, a cosmetics line, and Savage X Fenty, a lingerie line.

Rihanna is also known for her philanthropic efforts, including the Clara Lionel Foundation, which she founded in honor of her grandparents to support education and health initiatives in impoverished communities.

# RUCHI KALRA

**Co-Founder, OfBusiness and Oxyzo**

Ruchi Kalra is an Indian businesswoman who has succeeded tremendously by cofounding two noteworthy startups in India.

Ofbusiness - a tech-enabled platform that facilitates raw material procurement and credit for SMEs with a focus on the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors.

Oxyzo - The Company designs and develops financing platforms for small and medium enterprise loans.

Previously, Ruchi was a Partner at McKinsey & Company.





# SHRADHA SHARMA

**Founder & CEO, YourStory**

Shradha Sharma is the highly acclaimed founder and leader of YourStory, a powerful media platform dedicated to the Indian startup and entrepreneurship scene. Since its inception, YourStory has achieved great success. Her innovative strategies and commitment to excellence have made her a real mark in the industry. Sharma has received many awards and recognitions, including the NASSCOM Ecosystem Evangelist Award and the LinkedIn Top Voices Award.

# SMITA RAM

**Co-Founder, Rang De**

Smita Ram is a pioneering force behind Rang De, a social financing platform in India that grants low-income entrepreneurs and farmers access to affordable micro credit through crowdfunding. Smita Ram has made a difference in many people's lives through her dedication and commitment.

Her exemplary work has been honored with the Namma Bengaluru Award for Social Service in 2013 and, more recently, with the World Economic Forum's recognition as one of the 50 most influential social entrepreneurs in 2018.





# SARAH LEARY

**Co-Founder, Nextdoor**

Sarah Leary is an esteemed American entrepreneur and investor who has had a prominent influence on the tech sector.

She is the co-founder of NextDoor, a hyperlocal social networking service. She led product, marketing, growth, and international expansion over 10 years from 0 to nearly \$100M in revenue before listing on the NYSE.

She is an Avid golfer, lover of Italy, frequent global traveler, support of Room to Read and OneLove, diehard Boston sports fan, and proud Vespa rider.

# SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

**Founder and Chairperson & Managing Director, The Shahnaz Husain Group**

Shahnaz Hussain is a highly respected name in the Indian beauty industry. After beginning her journalism career, she successfully transitioned to the beauty industry and established her company, Shahnaz Herbals Inc., in 1971. Her success has earned her the "Queen of Herbal Beauty." In 2006, her exceptional accomplishments in business and trade were honored with the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian awards.





# SUPRIYA PAUL

**Co-Founder & CEO, Josh Talks**

Josh Talks is an online multimedia company that uses personal stories to motivate viewers in India to reach their full potential. Currently, Josh Talks' content is broadcasted in eight regional languages and is viewed by more than 45 million people each month.

Supriya Paul loves Phuket in Thailand for its beautiful scenery and enjoys indulging in chole bhature street food. She's splurged on an iPad and is always looking for new challenges. Skydiving is at the top of her bucket list, and Supriya is a woman who loves adventure..

# TORY BURCH

**Founder & Executive Chairman, Tory Burch**

Tory Burch is a fashion designer who founded her own collection of apparel and accessories in 2004. The brand gained recognition after being featured on Oprah Winfrey's show in 2005 and is now sold in over 300 stores worldwide.

In 2009, she established the Tory Burch Foundation, which provides access to financing, education, and digital tools, as well as a Fellowship program, to improve women's empowerment and entrepreneurship in the United States.





# UPASANA TAKU

**Co-Founder & COO, MobiKwik**

In 2009, Upasana Taku co-founded MobiKwik, a digital payment platform that has become one of India's leading providers. With over 120 million users, strategic partnerships with major retailers and banks, and Taku's leadership, MobiKwik has become a major force.

Taku is a passionate advocate for women in tech, having gained experience in Silicon Valley working at PayPal for three years.

# VINEETA SINGH

**Co-Founder and CEO, Sugar Cosmetics**

Vineeta Singh is a passionate entrepreneur and the Co-Founder and CEO of Sugar Cosmetics, an acclaimed Indian makeup brand established in 2015. Her mission is to empower the next generation of business owners, especially women and members of underrepresented communities. She is devoted to fostering a culture of creativity and innovation.

Italy is her favorite vacation spot, while pani puri is her favorite street dish. She emptied her pocket on Shark Tank India and her to-do bucket list is Boston marathon.





# SHILPA SHETTY

**Indian actress and TV personality and Entrepreneur**

Shilpa Shetty, celebrated actress and early-stage investor, boasts a diverse portfolio spanning tech, wellness, and F&B sectors. Notable investments include Mamaearth, Bastian restaurant, and health brands like WickedGud, Hunar Online Courses, Fast&Up, and Chicnutrix. Additionally, she launched her fitness app, "Shilpa Shetty: Fitness," offering users personalized workouts and nutrition plans.

# MIRA KULKARNI

**Founder of Forest Essentials**

Mira Kulkarni, visionary founder of Forest Essentials, revolutionized India's beauty industry with her luxury Ayurvedic skincare brand. With a deep appreciation for traditional ingredients and sustainable practices, she crafted a brand synonymous with natural beauty and wellness. Kulkarni's ethos of purity and luxury continues to elevate Forest Essentials as a global leader in conscious beauty.





# CHRISTINA CACIOPPO

**CEO and Co-Founder at Vanta**

Christina Cacioppo, dynamic entrepreneur and CEO and co-founder of Vanta Ventures, leads with a vision for transformative tech investments. Her firm focuses on early-stage startups, emphasizing security and compliance solutions. With a background in engineering and prior roles at Union Square Ventures, she drives Vanta's success in the evolving landscape of cybersecurity innovations.

, and rumor has it she's a talented violinist too.

# MINI SURI

**Co-Founder & CEO at VELMENI**

Mini Suri is a tech leader passionate about AI for good. She co-founded VELMENI to use AI in dental care, inspired by a personal experience. Suri's experience at Uber and Citi in automation and customer success positions her well to lead VELMENI. She's also a champion for women and youth, serving on the board of TiE SV and supporting The Hunger Project.





# WHITNEY WOLFE HERD

**Founder and CEO, Bumble**

Whitney Wolfe Herd is a renowned entrepreneur who founded the hugely popular dating app Bumble, which allows women to take the initiative in online dating. Before founding Bumble, Wolfe Herd had already gained considerable experience in the tech industry by working for several startups. In addition to making Bumble one of the most popular dating apps in the world, she is also dedicated to empowering women in tech through her Bumble Fund, which invests in businesses led by female entrepreneurs of color. She has spoken out about issues like gender inequality, online harassment, and the importance of diversity and inclusion in the tech industry.

# PARUL SHARMA

**Co-Founder at Gladful**

Parul Sharma, co-founder of Gladful, pioneers sustainable and nutritious food solutions. With a background in nutrition and a passion for wellness, she co-created Gladful to offer plant-based, eco-friendly alternatives. Sharma's vision combines culinary innovation with environmental consciousness, making Gladful a trailblazer in the conscious eating movement, promoting health and sustainability in every bite.



# METHODOLOGY

## **Identifying Leaders: Stronger Top 100 Women in Business**

This report by Stronger Top 100 recognizes the top 100 women making waves in the business world, including venture capitalists, leaders, legends, and entrepreneurs.

## **Comprehensive Shortlisting Approach**

Tholon's Benchmarking Expertise, utilizing their extensive data and ranking knowledge to identify outstanding women across various sectors, including venture capitalists, leaders, legends, and entrepreneurs.

## **Defining Success Beyond Numbers**

Rather than solely emphasizing financial metrics, we prioritized women who visibly impact their industries. Criteria included driving market growth, fostering innovation, and exhibiting strong leadership qualities such as effective team management and promoting diversity and inclusion. For entrepreneurs and business leaders, financial acumen was assessed through metrics like revenue growth and profitability, while venture capitalists were evaluated based on portfolio success and industry expertise.

## **Refinement and Diversity**

A weighted scoring system ensured a balanced selection process tailored to the report's focus. Diversity across industries, company sizes, and regions was further emphasized. Each shortlisted woman underwent rigorous research to confirm their inclusion and highlight their achievements, resulting in a comprehensive portrayal of today's influential female leaders.

# CONCLUSION

## The Power of She: A Legacy of Pioneering Women

The StrongHer 100 Women report shines a light on a remarkable group of global leaders who shattered glass ceilings and defied expectations. From legendary figures like Margaret Thatcher to modern business titans like Falguni Nayar, these women have redefined success across a vast spectrum of industries. But beyond their individual achievements, a unifying thread binds these women - an unwavering spirit of courage, resilience, and unwavering determination. They are not simply role models; they are trailblazers who not only achieved remarkable feats but also paved the way and inspired countless others to follow.

This report serves a purpose beyond mere recognition. It underscores the critical need for gender diversity in leadership. As these women demonstrate so powerfully, their inclusion strengthens all aspects of society. With every milestone achieved, the doors to opportunity swing wider, creating a ripple effect of progress that benefits everyone.

As we celebrate International Women's Day, let the stories of these 100 women serve as a potent source of inspiration. Let their journeys be a call to action, urging us all to work towards a world where everyone, regardless of gender, has the chance to thrive and reach their full potential.