### MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER





**BUILDING BUSINESSES | BUILDING COMMUNITIES** 

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# SICCI-LISHA Partners for "India Covid Relief Fund" Together with Singapore Red Cross



The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) and Little India Shopkeepers Association (LISHA) initiated and announced the 'India COVID Relief Fund' on April 26, 2021. This was following the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) appeal to deliver assistance and support for the humanitarian crisis in India. In addition to the public fund raising effort, SICCI provides the community support for those affected by the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

"The Covid-19 outbreak is having an unprecedented impact on the people of India, leading to multiple crises across the country. In the light of these challenges, SICCI and Lisha are jointly raising monetary support to help India manage the immense pressure on its health services," the organizations said in a statement.

SICCI has also reached out to medical equipment suppliers that partner with India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, through the High Commission of

India in Singapore, to gather information on their most immediate and most urgent priorities. It was concluded that Indian hospitals were in dire need of ventilators, oxygen concentrators and cylinders.

Dr T Chandroo, Chairman of SICCI, said: "We want to stand side by side with India as this is a crisis of historic proportions and would require our immediate and urgent assistance. I am making a clarion call to the Singapore community at large to support this initiative undertaken by SICCI and Lisha."

Mr C. Sankaranathan, Chairman of LISHA, said: "The plight of India is deeply saddening. We have set up several tents at Little India Arcade for people to make donations. I believe mountains are not moved by one person, but is the collective effort of many. I hope that we can all work together to make a positive change through the India Covid Relief Fund."

# **Introducing the Directors of SICCI Cares**



Dr T Chandroo Chairman, SICCI



Mr Kesavapany Amb (Retd)



Mr Ameerali Abdeali President, Muslim Kidney Action Association



Mr S Devendran T CEO, Sree Narayana Mission

SICCI established the SICCI Cares Ltd in October, 2020. It is the philanthropic and charitable arm of the business chamber to prioritise and execute social corporate responsibility initiatives of SICCI.

SICCI Cares will bring much needed relief to those who are enduring difficult times both in their businesses and their family lives through financial assistance and educational opportunities.

SICCI Cares will also provide assistance to humanitarian causes overseas particularly in countries affected by the Covid pandemic. For example SICCI recently substantial funds for essential medical supplies such as ventilators, oxygen cylinders and oxygen concentrators, which were channeled to the Indian Red Cross Society for onward distribution to the affected areas.

SICCI has an ongoing partnership with Singapore Indian Education Trust (SIET) and SINDA on a SICCI-SINDA Scholarship Fund. SICCI also has a long-term commitment to the South Asian Studies Programme (NUS) with the SICCI Prize for South Asian Studies.

In 2019, SICCI raised \$100,000 for the Children's Cancer Society. SICCI Cares forms an integral part of the Chamber's effort to pay it forward.

# Baring Asia Donates \$350,000 to "India Covid Relief Fund"

Baring Private Equity Asia Pte Ltd (BPE Asia) has donated a generous sum of \$350,000 for the fundraising organised by SICCI and LISHA.

SICCI Chairman Dr T Chandroo, said "On behalf of all the Board and members of the SICCI, I thank Baring Private Equity Asia Pte Ltd for rallying behind SICCI'S COVID Relief Fund to support the humanitarian crises in India. We thank you for your generous donation of \$350,000 which will go towards purchasing relevant medical supplies for hospitals in Indian States."



# MMMS and STTU Donate to "India Covid Relief Fund"

SICCI received 2 donation cheques for the India Covid Relief Fund from the Marwari Mitra Mandal (Singapore) (MMMS) and the Singapore Tamil Teacher's Union (STTU). SICCI is very grateful for their generosity.

Photos below are taken with Mr. Biyani, President of the MMMS, Mr. Samikannu, the Advisor of the STTU, Mr. Danapal Kumar, President of STTU and some of its leaders.





# SICCI-Adani Global Partnership to Raise Funds for India's Covid'19 Emergency Medical Supply



Adani Global Pte Ltd has partnered with the SICCI to jointly raise financial and logistics support to help India alleviate the immense pressure on its health services.

SICCI Chairman Dr T Chandroo, said, "We want to thank Adani Global Pte Ltd for their unwavering support and commitment to partner with SICCI and the Singapore Red Cross in doing their part as a Singapore registered company to help in the COVID-19

relief effort for India. They have been in constant discussion with SICCI to source potential suppliers from Singapore to fund the purchases of respironics equipment."

Jeyakumar Janakaraj, Country Head, Adani Global, said, "It is heart-breaking when we look at how the Covid-19 crisis is taking a toll on the people of India. Adani Singapore supports SICCI's India Covid-19 Relief Fund as it is a great and timely initiative to provide critical medical needs for India."

He added, "This is just a small part of what we can do. More importantly, pooling our resources across community groups in Singapore and working with the Singapore Red Cross ensures equipment and medication are rapidly deployed to where it is needed most. We will continue to aid relief efforts for India and hope India will be able to overcome this health crisis soon."

Read more at: The Economic Times (Click here)



# SCCCI Donates \$50,000 to "India Covid Relief Fund"

The Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) has donated \$50,000 to the fundraising effort steered by SICCI-LISHA.

Dr T Chandroo, Chairman, SICCI said, "We want to thank Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) for their steadfast response to India's unprecedented crises and commitment to help India cushion the impact of the second wave. We are greatly indebted to the Chinese business community who are standing together with us heart-to-heart to help India in this time of dire need."

Mr. Roland Ng, President, SCCCI said, "Over the decades, we have established strong rapport and collaborations with SICCI, our valuable counterpart in the ethnic

Chamber network. Covid is a global pandemic which we shall fight and overcome together. Thus, we stand in solidarity together in this noble initiative undertaken by our fellow associations SICCI and LISHA to address challenges in India. We believe this humanitarian relief will play a part in helping India overcome this crisis."

Mr. Benjamin William, Secretary-General and CEO, Singapore Red Cross. said. "The widespread casualties resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic throughout India is indeed heartbreaking. The priority now is to get urgently needed medical supplies to hospitals and other institutions medical in Donations from the public, including from SCCCI, SICCI and LISHA, will be used to purchase oxygen supplies

including oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators and ventilators. It is heartwarming to see people and organizations from all walks of life supporting this effort to help communities affected by the pandemic in India. We hope that these donations will go some way towards helping India overcome its public health emergency."



# Magnanimous Support of WKS, MMS and Spice Global Ventures

Many organizations have been very forthcoming in their magnanimous support to the India Covid Relief Fund.

WKS Industrial Gas Pte Ltd, a leading supplier of oxygen cylinders in Singapore has helped to reduce its commercial rates even while rates were spiking, to help donors who have placed orders for these to be shipped to India.

Spice Global Ventures, a local technology company has volunteered 1,500-2,000 sq feet of storage and warehouse space at the request of the SICCI Task Force and Indian High Commission. This was for the aggregation and storage of relief supplies that were shipped to India via the Indian Navy.

Representatives from the Maharashtra Mandal (Singapore) (MMS) have also helped to solicit funds and deployed volunteers at cash collection booths in Little India to monitor the donations.

The President, Mr. Ashish Pujari said, "We are all aware and worried of the COVID-19 situation in India. SICCI's India COVID Fund has helped bring local business organizations together in drawing all the relief effort centrally. Many individuals and members of MMS have come forward to volunteer. Although the heightened distancing measures have led to the closure of physical fund raising booth, online donations are still being collected. MMS will continue to partner SICCI in this effort."







# **Magnanimous Support of Various Individuals**

Many individuals have taken the initiative to come forward and garnered monetary and material aid for the India COVID Relief Fund. As of 29 May 2021, SICCI has solicited \$860,290.80 with 622 donors. SICCI would like to thank individuals and corporates who have generously come forward to donate to this worthy cause.

Mr Xiong Gang, a naturalized Singaporean, mobilized funds from his friends from China to support the relief effort. These amounts were donated in Renminbi and converted to SGD.

A group of individuals from the marine sector came together to buy 200 cylinders which were due for shipment in the second wave. Mr Sawar Mal Agarwal coordinated this effort with administrative assistance from the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The effort power demonstrates the committed individuals in the community in making a difference to society.

He said, "We are a group of friends in Singapore who were deeply

concerned about the increasing number of Covid cases in India and decided to combine our efforts to accumulate funds and send 200 Oxygen Cylinders to India through SICCI. We were pleased to see that within a period of 36 hours, we received \$44,600 from 150 people. The help and support from SICCI, Indian High Commission (particularly Captain Sandeep Marathe) and our friends who contributed to the cause is exemplary and hope that this will help the people of India fight the menace of Covid-19."





IBD is the internationalization arm of SICCI and provides support services to all Singapore SMEs to help navigate their entry into the international Market.

Whether it is providing in-depth market intelligence, recommending suitable Government assistance schemes, or detailing tax and legal advisory issues, IBD has the resources to answer your needs. The team also handholds SMEs in their internationalization journey through connecting with the panel Business Advisors / Market Experts.

Please visit www.ibd-sicci.com for import/export opportunities , information on international fairs and missions and in house seminars.

SICCI Hosts Ms Indranee Rajah, Minister in Prime Minister's Office and

**Advisor to SICCI** 



SICCI was privileged to host Minister Indranee Rajah to a fireside chat on 30 April, 2021.

During the dialogue, Ms Indranee spoke about the digitalization of economies and its impact on work arrangements.

She highlighted the possibility of working remotely, as demonstrated by the circuit breaker, and urged small and medium-sized enterprises to "take note of the difference" between working from home and having flexible working arrangements.

She witnessed SICCI's MoU Signing Ceremony with Proxtera which inked the partnership to develop a seamless cross border trading ecosystem.

This collaboration hopes to raise funds and expand into the South Asian and African markets as part of creating trading networks, riding on Singapore's Free Trade Agreements with international economies.

The CEO of SICCI, Mr Johnson Paul and the Programme Lead of Proxtera Pte Ltd, Mr Winston Nesfield signed the MoU in the presence of Ms Indranee Rajah, Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for National Development and Chairman of SICCI, Dr T Chandroo.

"Working together, I know that we will enhance both our organisations and develop substantial ties in the long run," he said. "This is even more important now as the world is ravaged by COVID-19 and businesses must rethink their avenues of cooperation and growth. Our partnership will be instrumental in guiding (Singapore) entrepreneurs connect to a larger trading ecosystem and to reap the benefits of the network," he underlined.

Here are some post-event press articles: The Straits Times (Click here), Fiinews (Click here).









### 80th Annual General Meeting - SICCI

SICCI held its Annual General Meeting at Singapore Manufacturing Federation on April 30, 2021. The AGM successfully concluded with the General Body's approval for an investment policy that allows the Board to re-invest the reserves in financial instruments or other alternative portfolio that will generate higher returns rather than keeping them in fixed deposits. Chairman of SICCI commended the "COVID Board" as it were, which had adroitly manoeuvred the economic downturn to register a net profit of \$488,459 in 2020 at the consolidated group accounts.

Dr T Chandroo spoke about a major milestone for the Chambers with the setting up of "SICCI Cares", a philanthropic initiative to raise funds so that the business community can create an impact in society. He mentioned about the India COVID Relief Fund which was a project under SICCI Cares. He had initiated a Virtual Command Centre (VCC) to coordinate medical supplies and transportation with corporates that wanted to make purchases in the effort to help the public emergency in India. SICCI Cares will also raise funds from the community to be donated to Singapore Red Cross for the purchases of oxygen cylinders, ventilators and concentrators.

He pledged to reactivate the private entity, "Trade Match Information Network" which will serve as an investment vehicle to allow members to have a stake in potential overseas investments that the Chamber could collectively embark on the next few years. He mentioned that the Board had intentions to rename the entity and review its archaic constitution,

Dr T Chandroo announced SICCI's commitment to nurture the women in our midst towards tech-entrepreneurship. He made mention of the Women-in-Tech webinar which featured Singaporean Indian women who have successfully ventured into tech businesses. We have agreed to establish a special entity to nurture and grow women entrepreneurs which I believe will be taken to new heights in 2021.

Chairman had also emphasized the need to consolidate community partnerships to strengthen the role of SICCI. Hence the Representative Council was initiated to be able to harness the voice of the different communities towards a common objective of engaging stakeholders and interest groups with a common voice. SICCI had met with the Marwari Mitra Mandal, Maharashtra Mandal Singapore, Singapore Sindhi Association and the Singapore Gujerati Society and secured an in-principle understanding of participation in the SICCI Representative Council (SRC).

Of critical and immediate importance was to ensure that the Chamber was relevant to the current economic and social circumstances. He mentioned that there was a need to review the Constitution as several layered changes in the Constitution had created significant confusion in the conduct of the affairs of the Chamber. He therefore proposed that an EOGM be convened within the next three months to approve revisions that the Board had recommended. He also commented that there will be focus group discussions with members to ensure that the revisions reflect the sentiments of the members of SICCI.



 $R-L\ Mr\ Kishore\ Daryanani,\ Vice\ Chairman\ |\ Mr\ Maneesh\ Tripathi,\ Vice\ Chairman\ |\ Dr\ T\ Chandroo,\ Chairman\ |\ Mr\ Hanif\ Nomanbhoy,\ Treasurer$ 

### **SICCI Panel of Advisors and Board Updates**

The SICCI Board had appointed Mr Inderjit Singh, CEO of Solstar International Pte Ltd into its panel of Advisors on 30 April 2021.



Mr Inderjit brings with him a wealth of experience as a former politician in Singapore's Parliament and as a serial entrepreneur. He is active in the start-up space and will advice the Chamber on all its new initiatives. We are fortunate to have him as a member on the Advisory Panel.

The following persons have been newly appointed to the SICCI and its subsidiaries:

#### **New Appointments**

- Mr Kishore Jethanand Daryanani, Vice-Chairman SICCI, Director TMIN
- Mr Maneesh Tripathi, Director SMEC@SICCI
- Mr George Abraham, Treasurer SICCI, Director TMIN, Director SMEC@SICCI
- Mr Muralikrishnan Rangan, Director SMEC@SICCI
- Mr Parthiban Murugaiyan, Director SMEC@SICCI

The following persons have retired/resigned from the SICCI and its subsidiaries:

#### Retired

- Mr Prasoon Mukherjee, Member (Panel of Advisors) (30 April 2021); Director, SMEC@SICCI (14 April 2021)
- Mr Tushar Pritamlal Doshi, Director, SMEC@SICCI (14 April 2021)

#### Resigned

- Mr Chandra Mohan Rethnam, Vice-Chairman SICCI, Director SMEC@SICCI, Director TMIN, Director SICCI Cares (25 Feb 2021)
- Mr Hanif Moez Nomanbhoy, Treasurer SICCI, Director SMEC@SICCI, Director TMIN (5 May 2021)
- Mr Raja Mohamad, Director SMEC@SICCI (20 April 2021)

# **Business Clinic by SMEC@SICCI**

On 20th May 2021, SMEC@SICCI conducted a business clinic to discuss human resource and talent management issues for SMEs. The clinic is part of the SME capability development initiative undertaken by SMEC@SICCI.

The SMEs were engaged in an hour long interaction with SME Business Advisors (BA). The BAs analysed the needs and problem statements of the respective companies, recommending the necessary follow-up actions and available assistance for consideration.

Beyond the one-to-one advisory sessions, the companies were exposed to the Diagnostic services that the SMEC provided. Following the session, the BAs shared a customised report with the companies, detailing the key takeaways. Companies were encouraged to use the insights to build on their internal processes and tap on government grants.

# CEOs/Executive Directors Meeting - TAC Alliance

SBF coordinated a Trade Association and Chambers (TAC) CEO's alliance meeting to foster greater collaboration between and amongst them. This is to help TACs leverage the strengths of the alliance to advance the interests of Singapore businesses in their effort to reach out to the global market. There was a sharing by Government Agencies and TACs. The theme for the sharing on 11 May, 2021 was "Capacity building for Future-ready SMEs and TACs". CEO SICCI Mr Johnson Paul participated in the event. The following were discussed:

- Grow Digital
- Online Digital Acceleration Index (DAI)
   Assessment Service for Businesses
- InvoiceNow
- Digital Economy Agreements / ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses
- Data Protection Trustmark
- Singapore IP Strategy 2030 (SIPS 2030)
- Skills Future Queen Bee Initiative
- Update on GlobalConnect@SBF

### **Useful Links**

Singapore's external trade performance for 1Q 2021

Source: <u>LinkedIn</u> Source: <u>Facebook</u>

Singapore's Food Future the transformation of Lim Chu Kang into an agri-food hub

Source: <u>LinkedIn</u> Source: <u>Facebook</u>

Emerging Stronger
Taskforce: S'pore can unlock
'virtually unlimited
opportunities' by playing to
strengths

Source: <u>LinkedIn</u> Source: <u>Facebook</u>

Singapore now part of Eureka Network - the world's largest grouping for international cooperation in R&D

Source: <u>LinkedIn</u> Source: <u>Facebook</u> Local SME's Innovation Story: V-Key: Energy Conservation with Smart HDB Homes

Source: <u>LinkedIn</u> Source: <u>Facebook</u>

SafeEntry Gateway Required at More Venues

Source: <u>LinkedIn</u> Source: <u>Facebook</u>

Inspirational SME story: Gen Y Speaks: A Stanford graduate, I quit the civil service to help transform my mum's cleaning firm into a startup

Source: <u>LinkedIn</u> Source: <u>Facebook</u>

### SICCI's Member Mr Leela Krishnan Featured on Channel 5

Mr Leelakrishnan is Cofounder & Chief Business Officer of Spaceage Labs Pte Ltd. He is a young entrepreneur who became a member of SICCI in the month of April.

He has been featured on the show "Talking Point" on Mediacorp Pte Ltd's Channel 5 and Channel News Asia on 20th and 21st May, 2021.



It featured how SpaceAge Labs' technology delivers real-time data help households better understand their water consumption habits. encourage the adoption of water conservation practices as well as allow for early detection of abnormalities like leaks.

# SICCI, Proxtera to create large trading network to transform documentation services

The Straits Times published a news article on April 30, 2021. The article carried a quote from SICCI Chairman, Dr T Chandroo saying, ""Working together (with Proxtera), I know that we will enhance both our organisations and develop substantial ties in the long run." Click Here to Read

# SICCI helping members use online services more effectively

The Straits Times published a news article on May 1, 2021. The article carried a quote from SICCI Chairman, Dr T Chandroo saying, "This is one way business organisations such as the chamber can help Singapore maintain its global prominence." Click Here to Read

# Singapore Red Cross launches fund-raising appeal for India as it battles Covid-19 surge

The Straits Times published a news article on May 5, 2021. The article carried a quote from SICCI CEO, Mr Johnson Paul. He urged people to lend a helping hand, describing the situation in India as a "humanitarian crisis of historic proportions." <u>Click</u> Here to Read

# Singapore extends life-line to India in oxygen crisis

Hindustan Times published a news article on May 14, 2021. It mentions High Commissioner P Kumaran thanking SICCI and LISHA who helped "to help raise funds and assist in procuring medical support and facilitating logistics." **Click Here to Read** 

# Local groups raise millions in aid for India's Covid-19 fight

The Straits Times published a news article on May 22, 2021. The article described the efforts of SICCI in its joint efforts with LISHA to raise monetary aid for the 'India Covid Relief Fund' and the generous donation of \$50,000 by SCCCI. Click Here to Read

### **Other News Coverage**

Singapore Chamber, Start-Up To Create Trade Network In South Asia-African Markets (30 April 2021)

Source: <u>Business World</u> <u>Outlook India</u> <u>Bollyinside</u>

India Mirror Finance Yahoo

SICCI, Proxtera to produce large buying and selling network to change documentation services (30 April 2021)

Source: News Kingpin

Singapore chamber-eCommerce platform work on South Asia-African markets (30 April 2021)

Source: China Pulse

SICCI, Proxtera to create large trading network to transform documentation services (30 April 2021)

Source: Ximei App

Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry promotes entrepreneurial success (1 May 2021)

Source: Tamil Seithi

INS Airavat sets sail for India from Singapore with COVID emergency relief material (5 May 2021)

Source: <u>Live Mint</u> Tribune India

INS Airavat departs from Singapore to India with COVID emergency relief supplies (5 May 2021)

Source: Indian News Republic

Singapore Chinese chamber of commerce contributes to 'India Covid Relief Fund' (21 May 2021)

Source: <u>Tribune India</u>
<u>Yahoo News</u>
<u>New Indian Express</u>
<u>Outlook India</u>

Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry donates 50,000 SGD to India's COVID-19 struggle (21 May 2021)

Source: Tamil Seithi

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce donated 50,000 SGD to help India fight the epidemic (22 May 2021)

Source: 8World News

Chinese Chamber of Commerce donates 50,000 SGD to support India's antiepidemic work (23 May 2021)

Source: Lianhe Zaobao

# Adani opens regional headquarters in Singapore

India's Adani Group has opened its regional headquarters in Singapore, focusing on the energy, infrastructure and technology portfolios, saying these are the most crucial infrastructure needs of developing nations.

Adani Singapore (SG) Country Head Jeyakumar Janakaraj said Singapore was an ideal choice for Adani's regional headquarters, thanks to its ideal geographic location, legal and regulatory structure.

"Our business has already had a presence in Singapore for 20 years, so we know first-hand that Singapore supports innovation and entrepreneurship and therefore is a perfect location for Adani's global ambition in this region," Janakaraj said in a release on 12 May 2021.

Adani SG has the experience and expertise to meet the large-scale infrastructure challenges of emerging economies in South-East Asia. For this region, Adani SG is focusing on the energy, infrastructure and technology portfolios, as these are the most crucial infrastructure needs of developing nations, he said.

# India a part of Acronis' global expansion

The Indian market is a part of Singapore-headquartered Acronis's global expansion with at least one cloud data centre to be set up soon and the acquisition of Indian companies related to its cyber protection business.

Acronis International Pte Ltd General Manager for South Asia Rustom Hiramaneck underlined the importance of Indian market when announcing a US\$250 million investment received from Luxembourg-Headquartered CVC Capital Partners.



"India is a top-tier country for us this year and a part of the Asia Pacific and Japan which are one of our fastest growing markets.

"We have big plans for the adoption of cyber protection vision in India in the next few years," he said.

# Mumbai-Dubai-Singapore digital entertainment partnership

Mumbai's One Digital Entertainment, one of the leading digital media companies in Asia, has partnered with Channel 2 Corporation of Dubai to invest in a Singapore-based interactive sports content company Digital2 Sports Pte Ltd. This partnership marks One Digital Entertainment's new innings in the global sports investment ecosphere.

As part of this deal, Digital2 Sports has secured the exclusive audio rights for ICC's Tournaments including ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, ICC Men's Cricket World Cup - 2022 & 2023, ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2021, ICC Champions Trophy, ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2022 for global territories and Asia Cup 2022 and IPL 2020/2021-2022 for select markets.

# ONE DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT



With the major investment and acquisitions announcements in the digital audio content space over the last few months by other leading digital platforms, Digital2 Sports will focus on playing a key role in building strategic content opportunities on the world stage of sports and paving a way for its peers in time to come.

# Hexagon opens Singapore centre with plans for India

Hexagon's Manufacturing Intelligence division will soon expand its centres to Thailand, Vietnam, India and South Korea, following on to its newly launched Smart Manufacturing Innovation Centre in Singapore which is fitted with advanced hardware and software technologies aimed at enabling an autonomous future.

The Launched was graced by Niclas Kvarnstrom, Swedish Ambassador to Singapore.

"This centre offers an environment for innovators, design engineers and manufacturers to test proof their inventions for quality, efficiency, safety and productivity with access to Hexagon's cutting-edge Smart Solution portfolio," said Lim Boon Choon, President for Hexagon's Manufacturing Intelligence division, Korea, ASEAN, Pacific, and India.



Commemorating Mother's Day: SICCI interviewed two women directors from its Board on what it means to be mothers.

### Ms Shobha Tsering Bhalla

She is a veteran journalist and media entrepreneur with extensive experience as a senior print and online journalist. Over the past 30 years, she has established herself as a serious journalist with her incisive cutting-edge opinion columns and well-researched ground-breaking stories.

In 2007, she founded India Se Media, the first magazine/media company catering to the India Diaspora in Singapore & SE Asia, which she still runs.

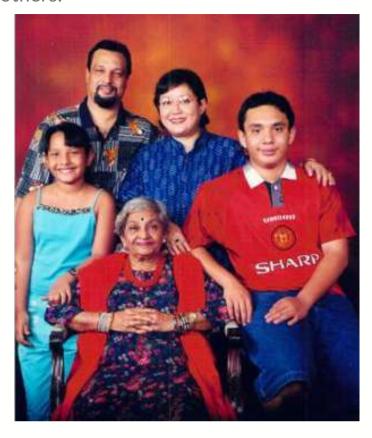
Shobha also serves on the board of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) where she has been elected as a Director for the second term. Besides being a Director on the Board of the chamber, she is also the Chairman of SHE@SICCI which focuses on helping socially and economically vulnerable Indian women entrepreneurs of Singapore grow their businesses in the post Covid era.

# 1. Tell us how you balance your multiple roles of being a mother, a wife and a business owner.

It hasn't always been easy and I made many slip ups along the way. But by the time my first child was about 3 and going to playschool, I found my equilibrium and decided I would ditch my quest to be a perfect mother and settle for "imperfect." That made all the difference.

For both my children, I made it a point to leave the office behind every evening and be a total "earth mother" to my child. I went down on my figurative knees and played with them, read them stories and tucked them into bed. On the nights when work held me back late, I made it a point to lie with them for a while and hug them and sing to them while they slept so that they felt my presence around them.

I also made sure I cooked their favourite meals every weekend and holidays and spent regular time with them in the library and playground. In fact, my social life was almost nil as I would only accept invitations where children were invited. I never felt I missed out on nightlife and partying because I was so wrapped up in my children and work. It's true that you have to sacrifice quite a lot of "me time" but I soon became used to it. With a little bit of time management, I taught them all the sports I loved – tennis, squash and basketball – when they were little as that meant I could also have some exercise while teaching them. It was the same with music – which is why my children know many of the songs of my era!



My husband taught them swimming, cycling and cricket and even a bit of Russian whenever he wasn't travelling for work. Many weekends my husband and I would take them to Punggol to visit the Home for the Aged run by Mother Teresa's nuns so that they were familiar with the issues of the underprivileged elderly and charity work. It has helped tremendously in building their character. I wasn't over fixated on homework and academic results. I simply wanted my children to be happy at school and to be all-round, well-adjusted humans. I guess that made my life and theirs more balanced. I was also lucky that I had my mother-in-law living with us and an excellent helper who stayed with us for a long time. They made me feel secure in the knowledge that my children were well looked after at home and I could focus better on my work.

# 2. How have your notions of what it means to be a woman changed over the years?

Well, motherhood has deepened my belief in the innate strength of women. And over the years I've learnt that we women can be our worst enemies because we expect too much from ourselves. To be a woman is to not feel any desire to compete with men. We are not in a race to the finish; we are partners complementing each other. A team working towards the same goal – the goal to lead a fulfilling, meaningful life.

### 3. What drives you to champion SHE@SICCI?

I was appalled by the paltry number of women entrepreneurs in our chamber and also in Singapore. I was also dismayed that many of them were unable to access capital and technology.

As an entrepreneur myself in an industry that is dominated by males and big conglomerates, I realized why there were so few women. We are hampered by many factors – by a gender bias, by societal demands which expect women to be the primary care givers and by our own lack of confidence. I found that women in general tend to start companies that are different than the kind of companies that men start. They are more likely to start a company out of the home; they are more likely to be in areas like retail, where venture capital and bank loans are not as common. There's also a kind of natural discrimination, or 'homophily' – the principal that birds of a feather flock together. In this case, its VCs who are mostly male and male entrepreneurs have access to them because of the strong male network. Women find it hard to get access to them and don't even know how to.

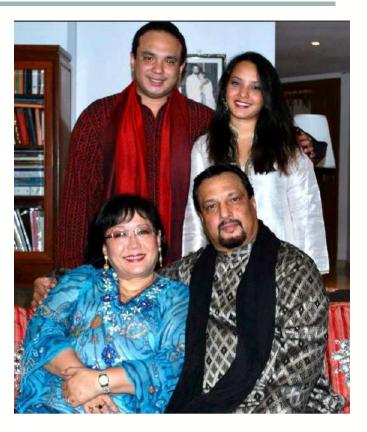
One of my goals for SHE is to greatly increase the number of women entrepreneurs in our chamber and to empower them.

In order to achieve this empowerment, I believe SHE@SICCI must help to democratize access to capital – whether from private sources or government sources.

# 4. Few words for aspiring female entrepreneurs of today.

As a young working mother, you probably feel that your work validates you defining you in a way that motherhood cannot. You love the fact that your work reaffirms that you are an individual independent of your role as wife and mother. But now there's something more. Now you're working not just for yourself but for your little ones at home who see what you do and how it teaches them that they can do what can do if they set their minds to it. So keep that always in mind. Balancing motherhood and work is not easy and your children will be watching and learning from you as you go along. So you have to focus, prioritize and sacrifice. But be kind to yourself and accept that you will make mistakes and even have doubts of your capabilities as a mother.

But motherhood helps you appreciate your work more for the perspective it provides on the importance of motherhood and your job of raising your little ones, for the opportunities it gives you to model perseverance, strength, commitment, determination. And always remember, in the end, it's the children that matter most. That being a mother is the most rewarding and the most humbling job you can ever have.

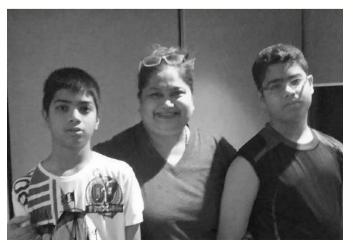


### Ms Purnima Kamath

She is an entrepreneur with more than 25 years experience in the events, media, entertainment, mobile marketing, ecommerce, digital, real-estate and consumer tech space. She is described by others as a "Courageous Opportunist, Unflinching Entrepreneur, and Lady with ideas" by the Women Lines, an online magazine celebrating women.

Purnima started "De Ideaz" in early 2002 to utilize her past experiences in marketing communications and to make her passion come alive by setting her foot in the education, events, cultural and arts ecology. De Ideaz Pte Ltd is an integrated marketing communications company. She heads the company in the department of marketing, business development, sales and client servicing.

Purnima also serves on the Board of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) as a Director and leads SHE@SICCI along with Mdm Shobha.



# 1. Tell us how you balance your multiple roles of being a mother, a wife and a business owner.

Finding balance between being a mother, a wife and running a business has been without a doubt, the single greatest challenge I have ever faced. Women typically are regarded as nurturers so saying 'no' is not in their DNA. Earlier, it was a tough call managing all roles. After few years, I became very realistic.

As a business woman, if we say "yes" to all tasks, there's a good chance that we are taking our work home on a very regular basis, which can really hurt your chances of establishing a quality balance between work and home life. I prioritize between what is crucial and what needs immediate attention.

As a mother, I have honed my negotiating skills to a fine edge. Sometimes you just have to do the best you can; but my family will always come first. Work hard and passionately when you're at the office, but then leave it behind and be present when you return home.

I understand and accept that I have to put my personal life on pause until my kids are older and on their own; right now, I focus my time and energy on being a mom and a leader at work, and that is plenty. I believe that women and moms make excellent business people because we are experts in juggling many different things at once.

I've been lucky enough to have a supportive husband who understands me. And have been fortunate to create a team at work where they can be flexible with my schedule which helps balancing it all. I think it is about constantly shifting priorities by being aware of the important people in your life who need you.

# 2. How have your notions of what it means to be a woman changed over the years?

Absolutely, there has been a tremendous change over the years. More women are seen in the board of companies globally. Number of female founders are increasing. Females are increasing in sectors where it was only male dominated earlier – technology, aviation etc.

Throughout history, the central role of women in society has ensured the stability, progress and long-term development of nations.

In reality, there is still lot to do to create equality and empowerment of women.

### 3. What drives you to champion SHE@SICCI?

There are a lot of like-minded women building businesses and groups focused on women entrepreneurs. Some are community based, industry-based, even nationality based.

At SHE@SICCI, we want our female members to participate and create a network - whether it's referring a new client, an investor, or just someone to vent about the challenges of running a business, no one can empathize with your situation better than another female entrepreneur.

As a woman entrepreneur, it gives me pride to drive towards achieving our targets towards SHE@SICCI. Due to the pandemic, albeit it is on a slow pace.

# 4. Few words for aspiring female entrepreneurs of today.

Today, due to technology and information overflow, there are many females taking a plunge to become entrepreneurs.

Not having a clear picture of what you want to accomplish as an entrepreneur could result in many challenges as you grow and scale your business. Having concrete goals will allow you to create more defined outcomes that will, in turn, make it easier to execute your goals and make your entrepreneurial journey a success and more rewarding.

Don't hold yourself back. If you know what you're doing is worthy, absolutely no one can stop you. My advice is to focus on the areas in which your company creates value and makes your customers happy.

Once you start the business, it prepares you for the real-life hurdles of owning a business. Find a solid mentor or mentor(s) to coach you, introduce you to people and bounce ideas.

Lastly, dream big but be practical and remember "without efforts you cannot achieve anything, so continue to make efforts and have faith".



# **Featuring SICCI Members**

### Mr J P Jaiswal Wins Enterprise 50 Award, 2021

The Enterprise 50 Awards recognises 50 most enterprising privately-held companies who have contributed to the economic development of Singapore, both locally & abroad.

This Prestigious Award is co-organized by The Business Times & KPMG and supported by Enterprise Singapore, Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX) and Singapore Business Federation (SBF).

Mr J P Jaiswal, Chairman and Managing Director of PMI is the driving force behind the company. Apart from being at the helm of PMI and serving as a Director in many other local and international companies, Mr Jaiswal has been very active socially. He was in the Board of Directors of SICCI from 2014-2018 and is a long-standing member of SICCI.

In recognition of his entrepreneurial excellence & outstanding leadership, Mr Jaiswal was a recent winner in the category of "Established Entrepreneur Award 2019" organised by Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI).

SICCI wishes, Mr Jaiswal very best in being recognised for this prestigious award.



SICCI's Established Entrepreneur Award 2019, Presented by Deputy Prime Minister, Heng Swee Kiat, Singapore

#### SICCI Members Mentor Youth At SINDA



SICCI members were invited to mentor youth through SINDA's Guidance and Mentorship (GAME), which was an interest-based activity cum mentoring programme catered for 13 to 21-year-olds.





SICCI members Mr Karthik, Mr Leelakrishnan and Mr Ravish shared their life experiences, which were beneficial to the young participants.



### Four Board Members Appointed as WCLs by MOM

Ministry of Manpower has appointed Dr T Chandroo, Mr Yahiya Khan, Mr George Abraham and Mr Parthiban Murugaiyan as Workplace Community Leaders (WCLs).

#### They will:

- Champion SGSecure as trusted voices within their business communities during peacetime and to sensitise their peers to the threat by:
  - $\bullet \quad \hbox{Contextualising the SGSecure message for their industries;}\\$
  - Building rapport with employees to engage them on SGSecure issues; and
  - Encouraging their business community to put in place measures to raise preparedness.
- Engage the ground during crisis by:
  - Supporting MOM in addressing the fears and uncertainty among employees;
  - Providing feedback on ground sentiments to enable Government to be more responsive to workplace concerns; and
  - Encouraging mutual support among businesses to recover from the crisis







# **Featuring Profiles of New SICCI Members**

Featuring some of our new members who have joined the SICCI family recently. Do join SICCI in welcoming them!



# **VENTURA**

**Ordinary Corporate** 

# Mr Ankur Tandon, Founding Director of Ventura Incorporated Pte. Ltd.

Mr Ankur Tandon holds an MBA in International Business from Institute for Technology and Management, India and EDHEC Business School, France. He started his career with A.P.Moller Maersk, which is the largest MNC in the Container Shipping Industry. In 2008, he moved to Singapore, wherein he was heading the ISC trades for Transworld Group, a leading Shipping group in Asia. Subsequently, he was a Commodity Trader with leading MNCs like Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) and then with Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC) wherein he used to trade rice globally.

In January 2019, he formed Ventura Incorporated Pte Ltd. Aside from being pure traders, they are also supply chain managers, managing the full spectrum of the value chain. They have their our own origination in India at the ground level, with their team present at the mill level to ensure that they buy the right product at the right price, do their own quality checks, manage the logistics themselves. Now they have also started trading rice from other origins like Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Pakistan.

For the near future, they have earmarked some new businesses – the most important being establishing the supply chain of fresh fruits. Singapore would be the first in line amongst their markets. The next geographies would be the Middle East and Europe (namely UK and The Netherlands).

In January 2021, they have incorporated their first 100% subsidiary in India by the name Ventura Incorporated India Pvt Ltd. This would help them follow their strategy of vertical integration and expand further to procure other products that they eventually add to their product portfolio.



**Ordinary Individual** 

# Mr Rafiq Kevin Pereira, Director of RKP Information & Consultancy Services Pte. Ltd.

Mr Rafiq Kevin Pereira is currently the Director/Principal Consultant of RKP Information & Consultancy Services Pte Ltd. A company he set up in 2006. After leaving the corporate world he revived the services in late 2020. He provides services, along with partners, in the logistics and transportation industry, security, environmental and other related service industries.

These services include international and local audits/certifications - ISO, OSHAS. Bizsafe, Risk & Threat assessments, RCAR, STP etc. In addition, he also assists companies with business planning and strategies, marketing, audits, operational reviews, information technology, amongst others. The consultation also extends to SMEs looking at M&As, business transformation and expansion.

Mr Pereira has over thirty-eight years of experience in the corporate world, working in various global MNCs, regional companies and local SMEs. Most of that time were spent in in varied management roles, from sales and marketing in the information database and software industry, operations, and general management in the environmental services, as well as senior roles in logistics and transportation. They included positions as Division Manager and General Manager in Origin Group of Companies, an environmental services organisation.

He has also worked closely with various government agencies, locally and overseas, to contribute to the overall security of the supply chain network and helped the company, as well as vendors/business partners in the region obtain local and international security certifications.

# **Featuring Profiles of New SICCI Members**

Featuring some of our new members who have joined the SICCI family recently. Do join SICCI in welcoming them!





# Mr Leela Krishna Sriramula, Co-founder and CBO of SpaceAge Labs Pte. Ltd.

Mr Leela Krishna is the Co-founder and Chief Business Officer at 'SpaceAge Labs Pte Ltd'. SpaceAge Labs is a Singaporean IOT startup reimagining operations and maintenance of remote and distributed assets in water and urban landscape sector using IOT and AI. Since its inception in 2016, it has served many reputed customers helping them in Operations and Maintenance by connecting their assets to internet of things and providing insights for smart management. Some of their customers include PUB, Nparks, PepsiCo, Changi Airport Group, JTC, NUS, RWS, River Safari etc.,

Prior to SpaceAge, Mr Leela Krishna had 12 years' experience in Water utilities Industry and was involved in different aspects of managing sustainable water loop through stints at various departments at PUB (The National Water Agency of Singapore), which include Water treatment, Water Supply, Wastewater collection and reclamation. His roles and experience include construction project management, plant operations, Sewer rehabilitation, hydraulic modelling, Pipeline leak detection, and workplace health and safety management.

He holds a Master's degree in Environmental Science and Engineering from NTU, Singapore and Stanford University, USA and a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT), India

He has a penchant for inter-disciplinary applications and applies the principles of convergence actively to solve problems innovatively. His interests include IOT, 3D Printing and Space Applications.



**Ordinary Individual** 

### Amit Deepak Palekar

Mr Amit works as a Senior Vice President with ESCO Pte Ltd, since 2016. ESCO is an Audio Visual, Video Conferencing and System Integration Company having operations across the region. As a Sales & Marketing Professional, he manages Key Accounts for the company spread throughout Asia Pacific and Japan region.

Armed with MBA and related technical certifications, he has sound knowledge in Audio Visual, Video Conferencing and IOT (Internet of Things) System & Solutions. His expertise lies in providing Consultancy of presentation & communication system for Boardrooms, Meeting Rooms, Auditoriums, Training Rooms, etcetera.

Mr Amit hails from Nasik (India) and has over 20 years of experience in Sales, Project management and Marketing. He has worked for companies like Tata Infomedia, STAR TV and Patni Computer Systems before migrating to Singapore in 2012.

He has also worked closely with some of the government agencies locally, to contribute to the overall development of Training Facilities and Presentation System for Singapore Armed Forces.

# **SICCI Welcomes its New Members for April 2021**

# **Ordinary Corporate**

Bank of India
Iora International Pte Ltd
Sai Rhea Foods Pte Ltd
Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte Ltd
Spaceage Labs Pte Ltd
Ventura Incorporated Pte Ltd
Vetcom Industries Pte Ltd
The National Forwarder(s) Pte Ltd
Redington Distribution Pte Ltd

# **Ordinary Individual**

Amit Palekar Preathiwy Raj J Mane Rafiq Kevin Pereira Vembaiyan Mahendran

# **Apply for SICCI Membership now!**

https://sicci.glueup.com/register/account

For more information, please contact Ms Gowri at:

Phone: +65 6222 2855 (Ext 2003)

Email: gowri.pillai@sicci.com

# STAY CONNECTED WITH SICCI!















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# **PROFESSIONAL CONVERSION** PROGRAMME (PCP) FOR PROFESSIONAL EXECUTIVES - FRANCHISING & LICENSING TRACK



Franchising and Licensing Association (Singapore)



#### Target Industries

F&B











### Reskilling & Redeploying PME Talent to support business recovery and growth post COVID-19

A timely and direct manpower support by Workforce Singapore to reskill, redeploy and create jobs as companies recover from COVID-19 crisis.

Businesses have transformed significantly; new business formats and operation procedures will need to be transferred to both local & overseas partners to ensure

This programme is administered by the Singapore National Employers Federation with training provided by the Franchising and Licensing Association (Singapore).

#### Target participants

- · Existing PMET staff (current jobs made redundant)
- · New hire (PMETs)

 Franchise-brand/operation manager (placed within local or overseas market; in SG owned or overseas franchisees' operations)

Participants will go through 12 days (96 hours of synchronous e-learning) for 6 compulsory modules (conducted by FLA) & 3 months On-The-Job training provided by employers.

#### **Enrolment:**

2nd Quarter 2021 intake is now open!

Singapore registered companies intending to reskill, redeploy and/or hire new staff for franchise related roles, kindly email tricia@flasingapore.org (or whatsapp 84484341) to indicate interest/check eligibility as there are limited placements available.

\*New hires joining companies from 1 April - 11 June should fit within 2nd quarter intake batch

\*Redeployment applications to be provided to FLA from 1 March - 15 May

\*Subject to changes

### Training Grant and Salary Support

S/N	WSG's Funding to Employers	Standard Rate	Enhanced Rate
1.	Course Fee Grant	Up to 70% course fee funding (capped at \$5,404 per trainee)	Up to 90% course fee funding (additional 20% top-up by SSG); application of 20% SSG grant will be submitted by FLA *For SC/PRs trainees sponsored by SMEs or mature SC trainees aged 40 and above.
2.	Salary Support	Up to 70% of monthly salary (capped at \$4,000 per month during training period)	Up to 90% of monthly salary (capped at \$6,000 per month during training period)  *For Singapore Citizens who are unemployed and actively seeking employment for six months or more and/or those who are 40 years old and above in the year of commencement of the PCP.

#### Eligibility Criteria (Company)

- · Registered or incorporated in Singapore with a valid Unique Entity Number (UEN) with Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA);
- Offer a full-time PMET position, with a minimum monthly gross salary of \$2,500, and of at least a 12-month employment contract;
- Has not applied for other PCP with the same trainees/ individuals.

### **Eligibility Criteria (New Hire)**

- Be a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident aged 21 years and above;
- · New hires must have graduated or completed NS, whichever is later, for at least two years prior at the point of application;
- Must not have prior working experience or be in a similar job role in previous employment;
- Must be a newly hired PMET for not more than one month of employment at point of application;
- New hires must not be a shareholder of the PCP company or its related companies;
- New hires must not be immediate ex-staff of PCP company and its related companies:
- New hires must not be related to the owner(s) of the PCP company.

#### Eligibility Criteria (Redeployed PMETs)

- The full-time job role must be at-risk of redundancy;
- Redeployed job role must be in franchising-related job roles;
- Be a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident aged 21 years and above;
- · Must have graduated or completed NS, whichever is later, for at least two years prior at the point of application;
- · Must not have prior working experience or be in a similar job role in previous
- Must not be a shareholder of the PCP company, or its related companies;
- Must not be related to the owner(s) of the PCP company;
- · Must be hired for at least one year at the company.



# INDIA CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC EMERGENCY APPEAL



The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) is stepping up to establish a VIRTUAL COMMAND CENTRE to coordinate efforts across different community groups to respond to India's call for help.

All proceeds will be directed to Ministry of Health and Welfare, Government of India.

### PLEASE REACH OUT TO US

Tel/WhatsApp/Telegram: +65 96541346 Ms Gowri/ Pamela: +65 6222 2855 SICCI Cares - indiacovidfund@sicci.com

"We want to stand side by side with India as this a crisis of historic proportions and would require our immediate and urgent assistance. I am making a clarion call for the Singapore community at large to support this initiative undertaken by SICCI and LISHA."

Dr T Chandroo,
 Chairman SICCI

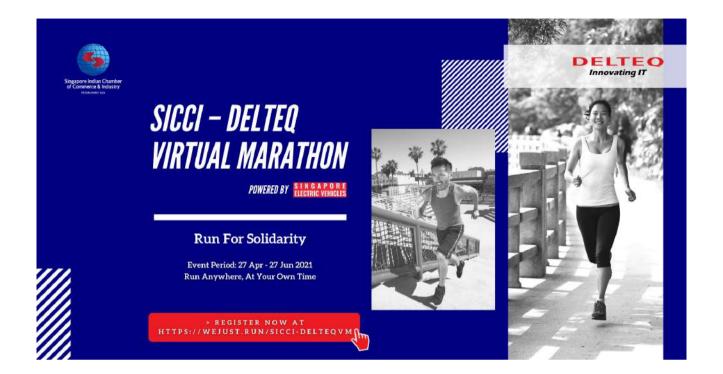


SICCI





Together We Heal. We encourage all our friends to stay home and stay safe.



# **REGISTER NOW!**

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