

Chartered for Success

M EET INDIA'S BEST-KNOWN anchorman. Until he descended on the scene, we thought that the deadpan way Doordarshan presented news was the way news should be presented. He changed it all with a professionalism that is hard to match. So much so that, today, everyone is sold on his news channel. That's the president and chief executive officer of NDTV, Prannoy Roy.

What would you think of a person who, in a nation that worships its cricketers and iconises its film stars, is a celebrity in his own right? You would think that he graduated from a film institute. The director of the heart-stopping movie *Masoom*, the pulsating film *Bandit Queen* and the award winning *Elizbeth*, Shekhar Kapur is the man over whom Hollywood swoons.

Once known as an investigative journalist, his exposes in the *Indian Express* set in motion the chain of events that brought down two national governments. His crisp, analytical, no-nonsense writing, backed by a surfeit of authentic information, meant that S Gurusamy was a person who could not be trifled with.

He got into the hot seat when his dad died under tragic circumstances, and he himself had hardly turned 30. Can a rookie rudder through the professionals of the Aditya Birla group of companies, people asked. Today, nobody doubts the credentials of Kumar Mangalam Birla; widely regarded as one of India's top business leaders.



Would you fancy your chances of rising to become the head of an automobile major? That is, if you did not have the technical background or if it wasn't papa's business? Perhaps not. But R Seshasayee was made of sterner stuff. From internal audit to corporate planning to manufacturing and finally to managing directorship of Ashok Leyland Ltd, the climb has been meteoric.

Whenever the government or the stock exchange watchdog SEBI wants to set up a committee on any matter connected with finance, one of the first persons that it turns to is the suave, soft-spoken Y H Malegam, Senior Partner, S B Billimoria & Co, part of Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, the big-four public accounting firm.

When you think of the software industry, you think of him. The tech evangelist with the Elvis Presley looks, he built a bridge between geriatric members of successive governments and the software industry. When he died at the impossibly young age of 38, the who's who of the software industry lined up at his funeral. That was the charismatic Dewang Mehta, an institution in his own right.



She is India's top woman banker. A flamboyant walk up the corporate ladder means she is within striking distance of cracking the glass ceiling at the HSBC Bank. Now its Vice President, she could one day become its Chairperson. That would make her the first woman to do so. Meet Naina Lal Kidwai, named by Fortune International as one of the 50 most

powerful business women outside United States.

These are success stories without doubt. But why talk of them here, you might ask. Well, each one of them is a Chartered Accountant by qualification! A news anchor, a movie director, a journalist, a business tycoon, a corporate executive, a tax consultant, a software evangelist and an international banker – all CAs – the sheer breadth of it is breath-taking!

Pitch yourself to join that big league. Think of nothing less. You have already taken the first step by taking up chartered accountancy. Follow the next few steps methodically and success should be yours.