



SIR RONALD COHEN'S  
INDIA IMPACT  
INVESTING TOUR  
17-22 MARCH 2016

## SOCIAL BUSINESS SHOWCASE HONOUREES



**Aadhan** | Nikhil Dugal

Nikhil has a B.A. in Economics from New York University. He has worked in the US, Ghana and India in the related fields of Public Policy, Microfinance and Development Research. He has published research on macroeconomics, microfinance as well as impact evaluation. He started Aadhan so he could switch from research to implementation, while getting to fulfill his love for fieldwork. At Aadhan, his responsibilities include management, product ideation, business development, and research & need analysis.

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**AgroStar** | Shardul Sheth

Shardul Sheth has over 15 years of work experience across USA and India with companies like PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Best Buy and an Agri-Tech startup AgroStar. AgroStar, today is the first and largest "direct to farmer" m-commerce platform focused on the agri needs of the Indian farmer. Shardul has been recognized as one of the "50 Most Impactful Social Innovators" by World CSR Congress. He has been recognized by the Fortune Magazine in their "40 Under 40" entrepreneur listing. Shardul graduated from Mumbai University and did his MBA in Finance & International Business from Rochester Institute of Technology, New York.

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**Aspire** | Rohit Bhatia

Rohit Bhatia leads Aspire ([www.aspireindia.org](http://www.aspireindia.org)), an award-winning social enterprise providing Employability, Entrepreneurship and Leadership Education in rural and semi-urban India. Aspire has trained over 65,000 candidates to date in 100+ schools and colleges across 45 cities and 18 states. Rohit is a Chartered Accountant with over 20 years of management experience. Rohit has also spent 2 years at Macmillan Education; 12 years in Finance, Planning and Business Development at Yum! Brands (KFC & Pizza Hut chain); and, 2 years at SBB (E&Y affiliate). Rohit completed schooling at Mount St. Mary's School, New Delhi; Bachelor's degree from Shri Ram College of Commerce (Delhi University); and, an Executive Program in Social Entrepreneurship from Stanford University.

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**Boond** | Rustam Sengupta

Rustam is the founder and CEO of Boond, a social enterprise that promotes solar energy access in remote and rural parts of India. Boond has won a number of awards (Echoing Green Fellowship 2014, Economic Times Power of Ideas 2010, Nokia DLD Global Challenge, UN Women etc.) and has impacted the lives of over 50,000 people in remote villages of Rajasthan, UP and Kashmir over the past two years. Rustam is an INSEAD MBA graduate and also holds an MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Irvine.

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### **Daily Dump** | Poonam Bir Kasturi

Poonam Bir Kasturi trained as an industrial designer. Her current project called Daily Dump - Compost at Home began in 2006 April. She spends her time figuring out which is the best way to get everyone to compost at home, make friends with maggots and understand that having a clean city starts from how you throw your waste. The word "Sustainable" in her head is all about understanding the patterns of interconnectedness. Her previous work in the small scale industry, crafts, design education motivated her current project. She is recipient of many awards.

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### **Drishtee** | Nitin Gachhayat

Nitin Gachhayat is a social entrepreneur and co-founder of Drishtee. It started in 2000 to delivering e-governance services to the villagers and is now a network connecting more than 15,000 rural entrepreneur delivering relevant products and services to rural and rural produce to urban market. He has been key to evolving various new services and models that can help achieve the vision of Sustainable Communities. One of his co-authored chapter appears in the book "netch@kra - 15 Years of Internet in India". He is a MBA (FORE) and GSBI (Santa Clara), also nominated as Asia 21 Young Leader 2010.

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### **Haqdarshak** | P R Ganapathy

P R Ganapathy is co-founder of Haqdarshak, a social enterprise that uses mobile technology and trained facilitators to help citizens discover government and private schemes they are eligible for, and to apply for them. In addition, Ganapathy is the President of Villgro, a social enterprise incubator. Before a career shift, Ganapathy co-founded a venture funded start up in the US, and worked at Infosys and the Tata Group. He has an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad and an Honors degree in Mathematics from Hindu College.

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### **Industree** | Neelam Chhiber

Neelam Chhiber, Industrial designer, is co-founder Mother Earth/Industree, a hybrid impact model, building an eco-system for women and youth micro entrepreneurs within the informal sector, promoting financial inclusion, skilling, design, enterprise incubation/acceleration, and connection to capital and markets. Recipient of the Jubilant Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur of the year award in 2011, the Women Change Makers Fellowship in 2013, Industree builds out an eco system for risk free and globally compliant value chains. It has impacted over 30,000 women micro entrepreneurs till date. It aims to build the AMUL of creative manufacturing, impact 300,000 rural women and youth helping them earn cumulative incomes of \$30 billion over the next 30 years.

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### **LifeSpring Hospitals** | Vijaybhasker Srinivas M

Vijaybhasker Srinivas M is Head (Process Control) at LifeSpring Hospitals, Hyderabad. After studying at Institute of Rural Management in Anand (IRMA), Vijay worked in promoting demand for services in various livelihood settings - forest, coastal, dryland & wetland farming, mountainous regions and with disadvantaged communities. To sustain gains in poverty reduction by providing adequate healthcare safety nets, Vijay has joined LifeSpring to promote affordable, quality maternity services for poor women in urban slum settings.

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### **MicroGraam** | Rangan Varadan

Rangan has 25+ years of experience in the financial services and IT sectors. Rangan is currently the CEO and co-founder of MicroGraam (Peer-to-Peer Micro lending Online Marketplace). His experience in the financial services domain encompasses securities trading, investment management, risk management, and economic modeling. Rangan headed the Banking & Capital Markets domain consulting group at Infosys prior to starting MicroGraam. Rangan holds a Doctorate degree in Finance from Lehigh University, Pennsylvania, USA.

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### **Neurosynaptic** | Sameer Subhash Sawarkar

Sameer's primary work is in affordable technologies for Rural Healthcare. Neurosynaptic's ReMeDi® platform today proudly enables large rural e- & m-healthcare services across 2000 village centers, reaching about 50 million population. Neurosynaptic does pioneering work in diagnostics, sensor technologies and medical devices. He is an alumni of IISc, Bangalore, and an Ashoka Fellow. His achievements include Engineering Awards, Patents and Publications. Under his leadership, Neurosynaptic has received several recognitions including "Global Indus Technovator Award", MIT, Boston, "Technology Pioneer" by the World Economic Forum, Switzerland and "Social Innovation Honours", NASSCOM Foundation.

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### **Rangсутra** | Sumita Ghose

Sumita Ghose is the Founder and Managing Director of Rangсутra, a social enterprise which works for socio-economic development in rural India by engaging both the community and the market. Rangсутra is owned by over two thousand artisans, most of whom are women. Rangсутra provides design, marketing, technical and organizational support needed to make crafts and allied rural industries into viable enterprises, so that they provide regular home / village based employment to rural artisans. Sumita has a Masters Degree in Economics and in Conflict Resolution.

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### **Sampurn (e)arth** | Debartha Banerjee

Debartha is one of the co-founders of Sampurn (e)arth. He is an Electronics and Instrumentation Engineer and has worked in telecom/software before doing his masters in Social Entrepreneurship from TISS. He has worked on development city policies and heads the Technology and Business Development divisions at Sampurn (e)arth. He has been awarded by Bharat Chamber of Commerce for 'Environmental Awareness and Impact Creation' and has won the Global Social Venture Competition at UC, Berkley Haas Business School.

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### **Saraplast** | Rajeev Kher

Rajeev Kher is founder and CEO of 3S and Saraplast Pvt Ltd, the country's first professionally scaled portable sanitation and waste management company. A leading quality temporary restroom manufacturer and a harbinger for setting up bio digester based low cost household and community toilets for BOP, rural and urban India, Saraplast has been a profitable business invested by Aavishkar and Responsibility and now is in the market to raise more funds to grow in his space. An MBA by qualification, Rajeev is creating innovative practices and applications to solve one of India's biggest problem of open defecation and improving hygiene and sanitation.

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### Shiksha | VL Ramakrishnan & Jacob Abraham

VL Ramakrishnan (B Com, ACA), Co-founder and CEO, Shiksha Finance has 25+ years experience in retail financial services. More recently, he co-founded Suroyday MicroFinance. Jacob Abraham (B Com, ACA), Co-founder and COO, Shiksha Finance has 17+ years experience across financial services with experience in strategy, credit and underwriting. They set up Shiksha Finance as a Finance Company regulated by Reserve Bank of India in 2015 to solve the problem of lack of access to Finance impeding school education in India. Shiksha Finance won the VilCap India FinTech contest 2015.

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### Samagra | Swapnil Chaturvedi

Swapnil Chaturvedi aka Poop Guy is Chief Toilet Cleaner at Samagra which provides sanitation services to the Urban Poor. Swapnil is an Ashoka Fellow, Acumen India Fellow, Dasra Social Impact Leader and a divergent thinker with extensive experience in Management, Design and Innovation. In 2011, Swapnil started Samagra and he aims to provide sanitation services to at least 2 million urban poor in 5 years by collaborating with several organizations across the developing world. In the next 10 years, he aims to start and grow other social ventures impacting the lives of at least 20 million people in areas of energy access, environment, nutrition, education and health.

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### V-shesh | P Rajasekharan

P Rajasekharan (Raja) is co-founder of V-shesh which is an award winning impact enterprise he co-founded with Shashaank Awasthi. Included in Top 10 of Global Diversity List, V-shesh has designed and delivered innovative services in education, training and jobs for People With Disabilities (PWD) and in disability inclusion and hiring for top-tier organisations. Educated as an Engineer, MBA and MS in Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University, Raja is recognized as a thought leader and expert on Disability Inclusion and is an active member of National and State level working groups on disability policy in India.

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### Vindhya e-Infomedia | Pavithra YS

Pavithra Y S is founder & Managing Director of Vindhya, which is a socio-economic venture started by her in 2006. It is a for profit organization whose employee base majorly consists of People With Disabilities (PWD's) & women from weaker sections of the society. She has been able to grow the company from 5 PWD's to close to 600 PWD's. Her vision is to employ 5000 PWD's by 2020. Some of the prominent recognitions received are Karnataka State Award and being recognized as "one of the 25 leaders of tomorrow" by Times of India.

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