

## THE SECOND GLOBAL BITSAA 30 UNDER 30 AWARDS (2009)

The Global 30 under 30 Awards are presented once every three years. These awards are the highest recognition by the BITS Pilani community to thirty students or alums for their extraordinary achievements before the age of 30. All students from Dubai, Goa, Pilani and Distance Learning Programs are eligible to participate. Winners are nominated by anyone within the BITS community including students, alumni and faculty. 2009 is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time that the awards are being presented. Those chosen to receive these awards have been selected by six highly accomplished members of the BITSAA community.

### DEDICATION

This award is dedicated to all those young BITSians who thought and acted differently, who challenged the status quo, rewrote the rules, and created their own paths. To the leaders, innovators, researchers, academics, students, entertainers, winners, engineers, scientists and concerned Samaritans who studied within the BITS academic environment around the world. To the best examples of what it means to be a BITSian.

### JUDGES

- **Brij Bhushan**, Founder & CEO, RCG & Member of the BITSAA Board of Directors
- **Dr. SP Kothari**, Head of Equity Research, Barclays Global Investors & Chairman, BITSAA Board of Directors
- **Dr. LK Maheshwari**, Vice Chancellor, BITS Pilani
- **Dr. Madan Pillulta**, Professor, London Business School
- **Mukesh Chatter**, Founder & CEO, Neosaej
- **Punita Pandey**, Founder & CEO, Netcustomer
- **Shashi Warriar**, Author

### TEAM

- **Uzma Barlaskar**
- **Ashwin Gowda**
- **Anupendra Sharma**

Thanks to all those who nominated so many outstanding BITSians for these awards. On behalf of the judges, the nominees and the rest of the BITS community, I am really pleased to announce the 30 winners.

Anupendra Sharma  
Co-Founder, BITSAA

## WINNERS & SHORT BIOS

1. **Krishna Hasa (2006)**, Social entrepreneur, Nirmaan leader and Mantra-CEL awardee
2. **Srikumar Murthy G (2006)**, Social entrepreneur, President of Nirmaan, volunteer for CMCA and Janagraha, national level Olympiad winner in Science and Mathematics and Goldman Sachs Global Leader 2008
3. **Ravi Sankar Ippili (2005)**, Innovator, Winner Silver and Bronze Medals, Robogames 2009 and First Prize at IIT Bombay Techfest
4. **Ankit Mittal (2005)**, Inventor of several products, winner of several business plan competition awards and Mantra-CEL awardee
5. **Samay Kohli (2005)**, Innovator, Winner Bronze Medal, Robogames 2009 and several other events at IIT Madras, Mumbai and creator of a business simulation game
6. **Roshan Sumbaly (2004)**, High Performance Computing expert, co-founder CSD Goa and runner up Microsoft Imagine Cup 2007 (India)
7. **Preeti S. Mulage (2004)**, All round leadership in academics and extra curricular activities
8. **Mayur Karthik (2003)**, Winner of several domestic and international awards for making short animated films including Global Runner-Up, Imagine Cup 2005
9. **Meet Chandresh Kachhy (2002)**, Winner of more than 40 awards in sports and top 3% of the Gulf Mathematics Olympiad in 1999 and 2000
10. **Manoj Vasudevan (2002)**, Founder of SourcePilani, India's first Rural BPO and Best paper award for innovation at the International Conference on Entrepreneurship in Malaysia.
11. **Tarun Kumar Bansal (2001)**, Founder of Intellectual property company and founder of a Hindi language magazine 'Hindi Chetana'
12. **Raheem Dareidiya (2001)**, Founder of theater company Mashaan, winner of acting, writing, and director awards
13. **Ashok Vardhan Rao (2000)**, Leader, Co-founder of BridleIT, candidate in AP State Legislative Assembly elections and Founder of NGO to bring financial aid to poor students.
14. **Sasikanth Chemalamudi (2000)**, Entrepreneur, Founder of "Habits", an award-winning edutainment company; Named one of Asia's 20 Best Entrepreneurs Under the Age of 25 by BusinessWeek, and featured on CNBC
15. **Anitha Alappat (2000)**, All-round woman leader, a lead engineer for APAC for GM, active volunteer recognized for her commitment and mentoring in charitable activities.
16. **Karthikeyan Vijayakumar (2000)**, Entrepreneur, Founder of Excedos, a custom market research and consulting company based in Chennai, marathon runner, and founder of a non-profit organisation to educate underprivileged kids in Government Schools and inner-city areas
17. **Lakshmi Priya Dhanapal (1999)**, Sustainability expert with papers and presentations at several leading conferences, and award winner at the American Society of Civil Engineers
18. **Ravindra Vytla (1998)**, Entrepreneur, CEO of Bridle I&T Solutions Pvt. Ltd., a start-up that caters to clients in the area of mobile applications and services; named one of the Top 5 Startups in Asia by Businessweek and winner of several business plan competitions.
19. **Sarath Babu (1997)**, Social Entrepreneur, Named one of eight MTV Pepsi Icon of India 2008 for founding Food King after IIMA, a food catering company that employs street workers; also contested the 2009 Lok Sabha Elections

20. **Phanindra Sama (1998)**, Entrepreneur, Co-founder of India's largest bus tickets company redBus, selling to over 4000+ routes in 15 states and a distribution of 75000+ outlets
21. **Ashis Panda (1998)**, Social Entrepreneur, pathbreaking work with Adivasi Bhil farmers in Rajasthan; also worked with other similar organizations; has impacted 2000 farmers across 30 villages
22. **Siva Cotipalli (1997)**, Entrepreneur, Co-founder and CEO of award-winning company dhanaX, named as one of the most innovative companies in India by Intel-DST, and one of final 30 nominees for the MTV Pepsi Icon of India 2008
23. **Amudhanvel Dhinagaravel (1997)**, Entrepreneur, International procurement expert and Founder and CEO of Beroe Inc, a procurement intelligence company working with 55 Fortune 500 clients (such as IBM, Dow, P&G, Microsoft, Xerox, Merck, Shell and Amgen) and provides market intelligence that influences more than twenty five billion dollars worth of procurement spend.
24. **Ananth Vyas Bhimmaraju (1997)**, Entrepreneur, Co-founder and CFO of Pennywise Solutions, named one of Dun & Bradstreet Best Small Startup 2008 and Tata NEN Hottest Startup Award 2008.
25. **Ashish Garg (1997)**, CEO and Trustee of BITSAA International, former Chief Editor of BITSAA Sandpaper (alumni magazine) and leader of the 75-strong "BITSAA Leadership Program"; launcher of a national design competition in India, author of several patents and inventor of an LED technology
26. **Shampa Kandoi (1997)**, International expert on fuel cells with many papers, patents and publications, and nominee for the AIChE New Faces of Engineering in 2008
27. **Sri Kripa Balakrishnan (1997)**, Molecular biology expert conducting research related to development of stem cell based therapies, published in leading magazines and winner of several awards; also Bharat Natyam stage performer
28. **Vikram Sampath (1997)**, Writer in several magazines, author of 'trained Carnatic vocalist, 'Splendours of Royal Mysore: the untold story of the Wodeyars'
29. **Shashikant Khandelwal (1997)**, Co-founder of BITSEmbryo, a platform for alumni and students/faculty to interact through video conferencing, and founding team member and Chief Architect of TheFind Inc, a successful, venture backed Silicon Valley startup; author of 7 patents
30. **S. Nagarajan (1996)**, Topper of the 2005 UPSC Civil Services (IAS) exam, winner of the Director's Gold Medal at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration for best academic performance and named top 10 Tamilians of the Year by Ananda Vikatan Magazine.

## DETAILED BIOS

### 1. Krishna Hasa (2006)

Category: Social Entrepreneurship

Age: 20 years

B.E. (Hons.) Electrical and Electronics Engineering, BITS-Pilani

Krishna started as a volunteer of the Rural Development unit of My INDIA (a student movement at BITS-Pilani, currently called Nirmaan) since its inception in March 2005. Her frequent visits to nearby villages exposed the bare and ugly realities of rural India, and after that there has been no looking back for Hasa. She has played a major role in nurturing NIRMAAN as a vibrant platform for social service all over the nation. She established "Rural Employment Incubator" which designs business models for livelihood generation and also established a collaboration with "Byrraju foundation" through a workshop on "Sharing of best practices" to reinforce the work efficiency. As a leader at Nirmaan, she has been successful in initiating new ideas like School Adoption Program, Spoken English classes, and a major project on Solar Lamps. She is currently part of the organization's Bangalore chapter. Krishna Hasa was the winner of the prestigious Mantra-CEL Woman Leader Award for the year 2007.

### 2. Srikumar Murthy G (2006)

Category: Social Entrepreneurship

Age: 20 years

B.E. (Hons.) Electrical and Instrumentation Engineering, BITS-Pilani

Srikumar is a social entrepreneurial leader with a focus on making a difference. He was the President of Nirmaan in 2007-08, a not-for-profit started at BITS Pilani, that believes that every child has a right to an education. He has worked for popular NGOs like CMCA (Children's Movement for Civic Awareness) and Janagraha. As a President of his school's wing for Janagraha, he played a pivotal role in spreading civic awareness in issues like solid waste management, rain water harvesting, tree plantation etc. He has also worked on issues like creating awareness about AIDS, raising funds for orphanages, and inducting street children to school. In Nirmaan, he has worked as the Project Coordinator of a project called "Self Help Groups" that helps impart rural women, skills like stitching, handicrafts and then help them market their products, thus generating employment. He was selected as a Goldman Sachs Global Leader 2008, which is awarded to 75 exceptional second-year college students from all over the world. He has also won several national level Olympiads in Science and Mathematics such as A.R.A memorial trophy, both in 2004 and 2006. He is an amateur robotics enthusiast, passionate programmer and good at oration and creative writing

### 3. Ravi Sankar Ippili (2005)

Category: Research & Development

Age: 21 years

BE (Hons.) Mechanical Engineering, BITS-Pilani

M.Sc. Economics, BITS-Pilani

Ravi Sankar Ippili represented the team AUTOMIZED MINDS from Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, India at ROBOGAMES 2009, held at Fort Mason, San Francisco, USA. Along with his teammate, he built three robots which bagged a Silver Medal and a Bronze Medal. The first robot, Michaelangelo, won a silver medal, sketches portraits of people. The second robot, Cyborg which won a bronze medal, is a sculpture fabricated to resemble a half human- half robot creature. The entire structure is made out of Sheet metal and Thermocol. The third robot is a dancing robot

and dances to the song “JAI HO”, composed by the great Indian Music Director A R Rahman. This third robot clinched the first prize in IIT Bombay’s TECHFEST held during January 2009.

#### **4. Ankit Mittal (2005)**

Category: Social Entrepreneurship

Age: 21 years

B.E. (Hons.) Mechanical Engineering, BITS-Pilani

Ankit Mittal is an inventor. He presented two novel ideas at APOGEE 2006, ‘Foot operated tap’ and ‘EPAXSY’. ‘EPAXSY’ is a novel approach for modernizing metro railway systems while ‘Foot operated tap’ was an innovative product that has been patented. Ankit has completed 9 project ideas for APOGEE 2007 with 20 team members working for different projects. He is also working on a new technology to regenerate spent pickling acid for steel industries. He was the winner of the Mantra-CEL Leadership Award for Innovation 2008 besides several business plan competitions.

#### **5. Samay Kohli (2005)**

Category: Leadership

Age: 22 years

BE (Hons.) Mechanical Engineering, BITS-Pilani

M.Sc. Economics, BITS-Pilani

Samay is the founder and Team Lead of Team AcYut that won the bronze medal in the middle weight Humanoid category at the 2009 RoboGames (San Francisco). Samay along with his team completed the whole process of "building a humanoid" in a record time of three and a half months. They also were placed sixth at RoboGames 2008. Apart from his technical know-how Samay has proved himself a leader by helping his teams win a number of accolades at various events like APOGEE (BITS-Pilani), SHAASTRA (IIT Madras), Techfest (IIT Bombay) etc. He was also the team leader of a 14 member dedicated BITSian team which made four scaled working models of an I.C engine powered F-1 Car, Remote Controlled Glider with a 2m wing span, Dynamic diving Submarine and robotic Micro Mouse in a month's time. His team’s work has been published in a number of national dailies which has brought to fore BITS R&D initiatives. Apart from the techie work he created the first Business simulation game by any University in India

#### **6. Roshan Sumbaly (2004)**

Category: Academia & Research

Age: 21 years

Masters in Computer Science with Distinction in Research, Stanford University

B.E. (Hons) Computer Science, BITS-Pilani Goa

Roshan’s research in the area of GPU computing has been acknowledged at International Conference on High Performance Computing and has also been published as articles in IEEE Technical Committee on Scalable Computing. He successfully converted his research ideas into a full-fledged project – eduGRID, which won him and his team the National Runners-up Prize at Microsoft's Imagine Cup 2007. The project also received an offer to be incubated at IIMA. Besides being the topper of the first CS batch of BITS-Pilani Goa Campus he also co-founded Centre for Software Development and LUG-BITSGOA to help automate various administrative issues faced by the new campus. As a part of CSD, he conducted the student body online elections for two years in a row. He also helped in setting up the parallel computing course lab at BITS Goa. In his free time he does freehand caricature sketching and has drawn for college magazines including Sizzling Sands and Bitskrieg.

## 7. Preeti S. Mulage (2004)

Category: Academia & Research

Age: 21 years

B.E. (Hons.) Electrical and Electronics Engineering, BITS-Pilani Goa

Preeti has to her credit many firsts, she was the first student at BITS Goa to publish a research paper in an international journal and the first to take part in a poster presentation competition held at BITS Goa in collaboration with the Lund University of Sweden. Throughout her career at BITS she has won a number of competitions ranging from inter-hostel cultural fests to virtual Stock Exchange held during Quark. In spite of her participation in a plethora of activities she maintained a 9+ CGPA. Preeti is currently a student at UCLA, pursuing MS in Electrical Engineering with a specialization in Integrated Circuits, this makes her the first freshly graduated BITSIAN to get an admit from UCLA.

## 8. Mayur Karthik (2003)

Category: Professional Excellence

Age: 22 years

B.E. (Hons.) Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering, BITS-Pilani

M.Sc. Biological Sciences, BITS-Pilani

Mayur Karthik has won several domestic and international awards for making short animated films. A few of his successes are "The Last Renaissance" (Runner-Up, Imagine Cup 2005, organized by Microsoft), "Butterflies Fly" (Winner, Best student visual effects short film, 24FPS, 2008, Maya Academy of Advanced Cinematics) and "Down In The Garbage" (Nominee for Pacific Heights, Japan - a short film archive for the film festival Short Shorts).

## 9. Meet Chandresh Kachhy (2002)

Category: Sports

Age: 23 years

B.E (Hons.) Electronics and Instrumentation, BITS-Pilani, Dubai

Meet has won more than 40 awards in sports. He was the Best All-round student of the graduating batch of 2006, BITS, Pilani – Dubai. He graduated with a distinction. He has participated in many sports events at school, university and company level and won a number of accolades in athletics, badminton, tennis, soccer, basket ball etc. He is also a good leader which he proved as the General Sport Captain in 2006. He was among the top 3% of successful candidates in Gulf Mathematics Olympiad, 1999 and 2000. He worked as an Instrument Engineer at J. Ray McDermott Middle East Inc till August, 2008 and is currently doing his MBA at Tepper Business School, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA.

## 10. Manoj Vasudevan (2002)

Category: Social Entrepreneurship

Age: 24 years

B.E (Hons.) Electrical and Electronics Engineering, BITS-Pilani

Manoj left his high paying job at IBM to move to Pilani and start a rural BPO. As the CEO of SourcePilani, one of India's first Rural BPOs in the North, Manoj attempts to change the face of unemployment in rural India as well as redefine CSR opportunities for corporates in urban India. In the past one year, he has single handedly built a 30 seater BPO operation that has pioneered medical transcription using rural youth. At 24, Manoj sets an example for all BITSians to raise the standards, aim for excellence and roll up their sleeves to go out and change things. While at BITS, he changed

the way the Sponsorship and Marketing department worked, set new fund raising records and built a great team and culture. At his first job at IBM, he delivered beyond what was just asked of a regular R&D Engineer. He received the Jhunjhunu district award in 2008 for excellence in social empowerment and rural employment initiatives that led to the employment of 50 rural men and women in the Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan. His paper on sustainable grass root development won the best paper award for innovation at the International Conference on Entrepreneurship 2008 held at Langkawi, Malaysia. His paper, "The Third Wave" has been published in the journal 'CURIE' (The Journal of Cooperation among University, Research and Industrial Enterprises). He serves on the advisory board of Seed Kapital Inc - a social startup company

## 11. Tarun Kumar Bansal (2001)

Category: Entrepreneurship

Age: 24 years

M.Sc. Biological Sciences, BITS-Pilani

Tarun started a company at the age of 23 that provides intellectual property services and products to clients worldwide. Currently the company has a direct collaboration with law firms and IP organizations in 17+ countries with a strong client base in US, Europe, India, China, Japan, etc. He has been harnessing the housewife power of India by hiring women at home with PhD and Masters in their subjects to work on IP and research related projects from home, giving them an opportunity to utilize their knowledge while earning money. He is in talks with Professors at BITS, Pilani to help BITS make a robust patenting strategy, conduct various workshops for staff and PhD scholars and offer basic courses on patents. He is also working on a nation-wide launch of a Hindi magazine - 'Hindi Chetana' aimed at increasing the awareness about Hindi.

## 12. Raheem Dareediya (2001)

Category: Arts & Culture

Age: 25 years

B.E. (Hons.) Computer Science, BITS-Pilani

M.Sc (Hons.) Economics, BITS-Pilani

Raheem's tryst with drama began at BITS as a member of Department of Theatre and Hindi Drama Club. During his tenure with these departments he was instrumental in setting up a record for the number of productions in a year (7 when compared to the routine 3 per year). One of these plays was performed at CEERI and this inspired him to start Mashaan with his friends at Bangalore. Mashaan's first production - "Badal Sircar's Saari Raat" was selected for the Thespo Festival and Raheem won the Best Supporting Actor award. Mashaal offers Samvaad (play readings) and Sanchay (collection of sketches) along with plays and theatre workshop. With its play reading programme - "Samvaad", Mashaal has given chance to ordinary people to engage with theatre. Mashaal has performed 11 times since May 2008, making it the most active theatre group in Bangalore. It has done 4 readings, 1 collection of sketches and 4 plays of which 2 were done at Prithvi Theatre Bombay, considered by many as the Broadway of India. Mashaal's self written play "Sifar" won nearly all awards at the Abhinaya Theatre Festival including Best Play, Director, Actor and Best Lights Design.

## 13. Ashok Vardhan Rao (2000)

Category: Entrepreneurship

Age: 25 years

B.E. (Hons.) Mechanical Engineering, BITS-Pilani

M.Sc. Chemistry, BITS-Pilani

Ashok is the co-founder and the youngest member of the leadership team at BridleIT a startup that has been named in the BusinessWeek's Top 25 Startups in Asia. BridleIT with over 100 employees now operates in 5 cities and has received angel funding from Chennai Fund. A man of varied interests, Ashok's entrepreneurial spirit brought him to BridleIT directly after college. He has received the Top 3 Best Business Plan award in the "Crème-de-la-Crème Business Plan Conclave" from CK Prahalad in PanIIT 2008. Ashok was the youngest candidate in the recently concluded AP State Legislative Assembly (MLA) Elections 2009, contesting for Gajuwaka constituency of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Ashok also runs an NGO –Chaitanyam that helps bright students with financial aid to pursue higher education.

#### **14. Sasikanth Chemalamudi (2000)**

Category: Entrepreneurship

Age: 25 years

B.E. (Hons.) Electrical and Electronics Engineering, BITS-Pilani

After graduating from BITS, Sasikanth left an offer from an MNC to build "Habits" – an edutainment forum. The idea behind habits was to provide corporate executives with a 'great escape' from pollution, the urban rat-race and routine, and give access to hobby workshops, college/corporate edutainment programmes and networking events. Revenues are through sale of books, games, food and memberships. Today Habits has 3 branches and employs around 70 people. Sasikanth has been selected as one of Asia's 20 Best Entrepreneurs Under the Age of 25 by BusinessWeek in 2006. He was also showcased on CNBC Young Turks. Described as an entrepreneur with a heart, Sasikanth has complemented his entrepreneurial growth by engaging in rural development through activities like Soochi. Habits was nominated as one of the hottest startups by TATA-NEN. He has pursued further education from ISB and London Business School.

#### **15. Anitha Alappat (2000)**

Category: Professional Achievement/Leadership

Age: 26 years

M.S. Industrial Engineering, Purdue University

M.Sc(Tech) Engineering Technology, BITS-Pilani

Anitha is a leader and a woman role model in all spheres. She was the only person to be promoted to Senior Engineer within the first one year at General Motors Technical Center. In January 2009 she stepped into lead engineer's responsibilities, assuming the role of functional lead for the Asia Pacific Region, one of the youngest people and one of the two female engineers in this role. She is an active member of the Dream A Dream and is the Chair of its Volunteer Management Team for the current term and was also a volunteer as a Fundraising Coach for the 2009 Mumbai Marathon. She is one of the very few people at GM Bangalore to be given Special Recognition for Corporate Social Responsibility Activities. She is an active member of the GM India Women's Council and is driving their Mentoring Program as part of the Mentoring Committee for 2009. At BITS, she served as the Treasurer, Engineering Technology Association, Executive Committee Member, Kairali Association and a member of the Department of Sponsorship.

#### **16. Karthikeyan Vijayakumar (2000)**

Category: Leadership / Sports

Age: 26 years

B.E. (Hons.) Mechanical Engineering, BITS-Pilani

Karthikeyan is the founder of Excedos, a custom market research and consulting company based in Chennai, India which was nominated for the TATA NEN hot startup. He was instrumental in

building long-term market intelligence engagements with Fortune 500 companies based in the US. He is an ardent sportsman and has not only exhibited it by winning a number of accolades in athletics, cricket and cycling events but also created impact by spreading the running movement in Chennai through his forum 'Chennai Runners'. Over three years (2005 to 2008) he has completed two marathons and five half-marathons. He also co-founded Deepam, a non-profit organisation that educates underprivileged kids in Government Schools and inner-city areas in Chennai.

## 17. Lakshmi Priya Dhanapal (1999)

Category: Leadership, Community Service, and Research & Development

Age: 26 years

M.S. Environmental Engineering

B.E. (Hons.) Chemical Engineering, BITS-Pilani

M.Sc. Biological Sciences, BITS-Pilani

Lakshmi took up a career which is close to her heart - provide clean water to people. She is currently working as an Environmental Engineer in Portland, Oregon and is serving on the committee chair of the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association - Lower Columbia Section (PNCWA-LCS). Her passion for her dream is obvious from her participation on the committee for a number of organizations like Water Environment Association of Texas and "Water For People". She has over five papers to her credit and has presented her work at several conferences including, the International Water Association - Young Water Professional's Conference (July 2008) and American Society of Civil Engineers - Texas (Fall 2007 and Spring 2007). She has been awarded the "Best in Session" at the American Society of Civil Engineers - Texas. She worked as a research assistant for NASA's program that dealt with recycling waste water for astronauts on long term space travel at Texas Tech University.

## 18. Ravindra Vytla (1998)

Category: Entrepreneurship

Age: 27 years

Master of Management Studies, BITS-Pilani

M.Sc. (Tech.) Information Systems, BITS-Pilani

Ravindra is the CEO of Bridle I&T Solutions Pvt. Ltd., a start-up that caters to clients in the area of mobile applications and services. Bridle is an interesting startup that is focused on providing mobile communication solutions that connect parents to schools, and currently connects 70,000 parents to 68 schools in the state of Andhra Pradesh. B. Bridle was named one of the Top 5 Startups in Asia by Businessweek. It was also the Top 3 Best Business Plan award in the "Crème-de-la-Crème Business Plan Conclave" jointly judged by CK Prahalad, S Ramadorai (TCS), Ravi Kant (Tata Motors) and Muthuraman (Tata Steel) at the PanIIT 2008. Prior to Bridle he worked with Oracle, handling development of server-side technologies and was involved in design of products at the USA headquarters. Before Oracle he worked for Insead Business School, France. His interests include meditation, playing sports and listening to music.

## 19. Sarath Babu (1997)

Category: Entrepreneurship

Age: 29 years

MBA, IIM Ahmedabad

B.E. (Hons.) Chemical Engineering, BITS-Pilani

Sarath Babu has captured the imagination of India's youth, which led to his being named one of eight MTV Pepsi Icon of India 2008, following in the footsteps of Shahrukh Khan, Anil Ambani and

Rahul Dravid after a nation voted for him. After graduating from IIM Ahmedabad Sarath Babu turned down a big consulting job to create Food King, a food catering company that employs street workers. Sarath Babu started Food King with seed money of only Rs 2,000 because he wanted to return to his roots. For Sarath, his mother, who once sold idlis on the pavements of Chennai and worked as an ayah, is a pillar of strength. His venture today is spread across several locations supplying snacks to corporate sectors, banks and software firms and has a turnover of Rs 9 crores. Sarath also contested the 2009 Lok Sabha Elections as an independent candidate from South Chennai. He is a recipient of the Example to Youth Award 2008", Chennai.

## 20. Phanindra Sama (1998)

Category: Entrepreneurship

Age: 28 years

B.E. (Hons.) Electrical and Electronics Engineering, BITS-Pilani

Phani co-founded India's largest bus tickets company – redBus, in 2006. After graduating with distinction from Pilani in 2002 Phani worked with Texas Instruments as a Project Lead. It was in 2005 when Phani was struggling to get a bus ticket to his hometown that the idea for creating an online portal for bus tickets struck him. In an un-organized market, redBus has built a network of services on 4000+ routes in 15 states and a distribution of 75000+ outlets (including Online Travel Agencies like www.makemytrip.com, www.yatra.com etc.,) in just 2 years from inception. redBus has also forayed into rural India through a tie-up with Comat Technologies to cater to the bus ticket needs of customers in rural Karnataka.

## 21. Ashis Panda (1998)

Category: Social Entrepreneurship

Age: 28 years

PGDRM, IRMA Anand

B.E. (Hons.) Civil Engineering, BITS-Pilani

Ashis has been working with the Adivasi Bhil farmers in the Dungarpur district of Rajasthan that has the highest incidence of poverty in Rajasthan to improve productivity of agricultural land through soil/water conservation. Previously he had worked with Timbaktu Collective a Civil Society Organisation and Adisakthi MACTS, a Rural Women's Cooperative Society and designed and implemented a development program involving nearly 2000 farmers across 30 villages in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh, that improved production yields, reduced production costs and improved prices received by the farmers. At BITS, Ashis worked with the Civil Engineering Association and Department of Backstage and was actively involved in the National Service Scheme.

## 22. Siva Cotipalli (1997)

Category: Entrepreneurship & Community Development

Age: 28 years

MBA, IIM-Kozhikode

B.E. (Hons.) Mechanical Engineering, BITS-Pilani

Siva Prasad is the co-founder and CEO of dhanaX a social lending site that matches lenders with low-income borrowers. After graduating from BITS-Pilani and IIM-Kozhikode and working with MNCs for close to 4 years, Siva wanted to build a business that will benefit millions of Indians and thus started dhanaX. Siva was also amongst the final 30 nominees selected for the MTV Pepsi Icon of India 2008 for his vision and accomplishments. dhanaX has received recognition from Intel-Department of Science and Technology as one of the most innovative companies to come out of

India and is one of the two Asian companies invited to present at the prestigious Investor's Circle in Silicon Valley in 2008. dhanaX was also a semi-finalist at Stanford's E-Challenge and was 2nd in Intellect's Srijan business plan competition. dhanaX has received extensive coverage in the Economic Times, Times of India, CNBC-TV18, Times NOW, InformationWeek and many other national and international media. dhanaX, which stands for exchange of dhana or wealth, works with the vision to connect people from different economic backgrounds and thus create wealth for them. As of now the scale is small but the company is growing rapidly.

### **23. Amudhanvel Dhinagaravel (1997)**

Category: Entrepreneurship

Age: 28 years

M.S. (Operations Research & Supply Chain Management), North Carolina State University

B.E. (Hons.) Mechanical Engineering, BITS-Pilani

M.Sc. (Hons.) Chemistry, BITS-Pilani

Amudhanvel is the founder and CEO of Beroe Inc, the world's leading provider of customized procurement intelligence. Beroe works with more than 55 Fortune 500 clients (such as IBM, Dow, P&G, Microsoft, Xerox, Merck, Shell and Amgen) and provides market intelligence that influences more than twenty five billion dollars worth of procurement spend. Amudhanvel is widely regarded to be one of the leading people in the field of procurement. He has been invited to speak at several conferences around the world, including ISM, EIPM, SCIP, CIPS, MAPI and Procurecon. At BITS, he was one of the founding members of the entrepreneurship organization, Shreshta that was the precursor to the current Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

### **24. Ananth Vyas Bhimmaraju (1997)**

Category: Entrepreneurship

Age: 29 years

MBA, London Business School

M.Sc. (Hons.) Finance, BITS-Pilani

Ananth is the co-founder and CFO of Pennywise Solutions a successful startup in India that was a finalist in the Dun & Bradstreet Best Small Startup 2008 and Tata NEN Hottest Startup Award 2008. He has also founded two online startups within Pennywise. Ananth is experienced in a variety of roles - financial management, general management, legal, sales, operations and quality from various organizations (MNCs, startups & privately held companies) and is also a CFA charter holder. Prior to founding Pennywise Solutions he was an analyst at JPMorgan Chase. He is currently pursuing an MBA at London Business School.

### **25. Ashish Garg (1997)**

Category: Leadership

Age: 29 years

M.S. (Electrical Engineering) University of California, Santa Barbara

B.E. (Hons.) Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering, BITS-Pilani

Ashish is the CEO and Trustee of BITSAA International, the global alumni arm of Bits-pilani. Ashish joined BITSAA International as a volunteer in 2003 and served as Chief Editor of BITSAA Sandpaper (alumni magazine) and Secretary of the Silicon Valley Chapter before being unanimously appointed as CEO by the BITSAA International Board. At BITSAA International, Ashish launched the "BITSAA Leadership Program" through which he created, from scratch, a 75-member organization. Under Ashish's leadership, BITSAA also launched its first-ever global Alumni directory

at [www.bitsaa.org](http://www.bitsaa.org) and created multiple scholarships at the BITS-Pilani campuses. Ashish has also started a major competition for PSoC design at BITS-Pilani Goa for his company, Cypress Semiconductor.

## 26. Shampa Kandoi (1997)

Category: Research & Development / Professional Achievement

Age: 28 years

PhD Chemical Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison

BE (Hons.) Chemical Engineering, BITS-Pilani

Shampa works with UTC Power, where she leads a team of Engineers addressing issues related to the commercialization of fuel cells. Within a short span of time at UTC, she has developed a number of patented technologies and was given the Senior Management Award. Her research work has resulted in several publications that have been cited over 80 times by researchers all over the world and one of her publications was listed by the journal as the most viewed articles in 2004. She has presented her work at several prestigious international conferences, collaborated with some world class researchers in her field, trained international faculties, served as a reviewer for various international journals and is an invited member of the Industrial Advisory Board for UW-Advanced Materials Industrial Consortium. She was a nominee for the AIChE New Faces of Engineering, 2008

## 27. Sri Kripa Balakrishnan (1997)

Category: Academia & Research

Age: 29 years

PhD - Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Louisiana State University

B.Pharm (Hons.), M.Sc. Biological Sciences, BITS-Pilani

Sri is a researcher in the field of Molecular biology with a specialization in the area of transcription and chromatin. Her current research is critical to the development of stem cell based therapies for diseases like Parkinsons, Alzheimers, Diabetes etc. She won the outstanding graduate student prize in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology graduate program at LSU Shreveport for her research in elucidating a novel mechanism by which a key tumor suppressor protein functions. A part of this research was published in the journal Oncogene in April 2008. She was also awarded the Jason A. Cardelli award for excellence in cancer research for her contribution in this area. She is also an active member of the society of research fellows at the Salk Institute through active involvement in organizing career development events in La Jolla. In her spare time, Sri actively pursues her passion in bharatanatyam and performs at events in the San diego area where she currently resides.

## 28. Vikram Sampath (1997)

Category: Writers

Age: 29 years

MBA Finance, S.P. Jain Institute

BE (Hons.) Electrical and Electronics Engineering, BITS-Pilani

M.Sc. Mathematics, BITS-Pilani

After his MBA Vikram worked in the Risk Management Department with GE Money and later moved to Citibank as part of the Global Decision Management Team. Currently he works as a Project Manager with Hewlett Packard, Bangalore. He writes regularly for several leading newspapers and magazines like the Hindu, Deccan Herald, Bangalore Mirror, Jet Wings etc. on matters of art, culture, music and history. During his student days at BITS-Pilani, his paper was the only student paper to be presented at the National University of Singapore's First Symposium on Teaching and

Learning in Higher Education. He worked under the then Director Prof. S Venkateswaran on the subject of education reforms in India in comparison with other countries' models. Vikram is also a trained Carnatic vocalist and has been learning Carnatic music under several eminent gurus. He is currently working on the research of his second book on Carnatic music and its growth in the royal courts of South India. He is the author of one of 2008's best-sellers 'Splendours of Royal Mysore: the untold story of the Wodeyars' published by Rupa & Co. This book has been termed as one of the most definitive accounts of the Mysore Royal family and traces 600 years of their regime, along with the socio-political, economic and cultural history of Mysore. The book was released in March 2008 by His Excellency the Governor of Karnataka. The book has been hailed by several luminaries including the late Dr K K Birla, Mr L K Advani etc.

## **29. Shashikant Khandelwal (1997)**

Category: Entrepreneurship

Age: 29 years

MS Computer Science, Stanford University

B.E (Hons.) Computer Science, BITS-Pilani

Shashikant is best known among the BITSian community as the co-founder and founding CEO of BITSEmbryo – a platform for alumni and students/faculty to interact through video conferencing. Shashikant led this project from idea inception and planning to build an executive team and an on-campus EmbryoClub to run the project. Till date, Embryo is one of the most successful BITSAA projects with over 80 lectures in 2 years, some of them conducted simultaneously across Pilani, Goa and Dubai campuses. Shashikant was a part of the founding team and Chief Architect of TheFind Inc, a successful, venture backed Silicon Valley startup. Working on a prototype in his dorm room in his final year at Stanford, he has grown TheFind to a profitable search engine with 10 million visitors per month. Shashikant has solved some hard problems in search and information extraction which many other companies have failed at, and is the author of 7 patents till date. He is also an NTSE and BITS top-10 award winner, and has previously worked at BARC, INSEAD Business School and Microsoft. In his spare time, you can find him cooking dinner for his friends or planning ski trips.

## **30. S. Nagarajan (1996)**

Category: Professional Achievement

Age: 29 years

B.E. (Hons.) Electrical & Electronics Engineering, BITS-Pilani

Nagarajan topped the UPSC Civil Services (IAS) exam in 2005. He also received the Director's Gold Medal at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration for best academic performance. He has served in a multitude of positions in the Railway Traffic Service and Indian Administrative Service across South India and currently is the Additional Collector (Development) in Sivaganga district in Tamil Nadu. As a sub-Collector of Hosur district he had issued the highest number of Social Security Pensions ever. At BITS Nagarajan was a member of CRAC. He has been honored as one of the top 10 Tamilians of the year 2005 by Ananda Vikatan Magazine.