



LEADERS OF VIKSIT BHARAT

MINT MEDIA MARKETING INITIATIVE

India can truly become a developed nation that offers prosperity, dignity, and opportunity to all. Featured here are some leaders who are defining India's roadmap for a Viksit Bharat by 2047

Chandni Kapadia: Weaving global vision into India's educational fabric

In the narrative of India's rise as a global knowledge and innovation powerhouse, few leaders embody the spirit of transformative ambition quite like Chandni Kapadia. A trailblazer whose journey is a striking testament to the ethos of Viksit Bharat—where vision meets action, and excellence isn't just achieved, it's redefined. But what makes her story uniquely Indian—and uniquely relevant to a Republic Day tribute—is how she brought that global ethos home.

Kapadia's career showcases her as a seasoned global leader, with expertise in brand strategy and leadership roles across

international organizations. She's gained a deep understanding of global business, markets, and consumers. What makes her journey uniquely Indian is how she's applied these experiences to drive institution-building and innovation in India's educational landscape. This blend of global insight and local impact makes her story particularly inspiring, especially on Republic Day. She believes true leadership emerges where rigour meets imagination, combining logic and creativity to think beyond boundaries.

Today, as executive director of GLS University, Kapadia has built bridges between Indian

students and leading universities across the world, enabling collaborations and academic cross-pollination that prepare young minds for a 21st-century world. Kapadia's leadership consciously amplifies women's voices and her mentorship philosophy is simple yet profound: "True influence isn't about the positions we hold, but the lives we touch and the possibilities we open for others."

Winning accolades—from *Forbes'* Top 10 Women Entrepreneurs of India to the World Women Leadership Congress Award, Times Women Icon, CEO of the Year and more, she says every recognition



Chandni Kapadia: Multifaceted leader of change

"serves as a gentle reminder of the work that still awaits us—the young minds yet to be shaped and the spaces yet to be transformed through learning, collaboration, and compassion."

Financial wellness is imperative to building lasting household wealth

Rahul Banerjee, an IIM Calcutta alumnus and a Certified Financial Planner (FPSB), Certified International Wealth Manager (AIWM, Switzerland), and an awardee in Financial Planning from the Chartered Insurance Institute, London, is considered one of the top minds in the financial planning and wealth management space in India.

Founder of the PGP Academy and now PGP Wealth, Banerjee has spent nearly two decades working at the intersection of banking, wealth management, and financial education. Over the last 10 years, his work has focused on strengthening the advisory ecosystem, training and mentoring more than 45,000 wealth managers, bankers, mutual fund distributors, and insurance advisors across India.

"India does not have a product problem. It has a behaviour problem," Banerjee says. "Most long-term under-performance comes not from poor investments, but from panic, over-confidence, return chasing, and inconsistency"

market timing. Fear during market falls and greed during rallies often erase years of disciplined saving. Banerjee's work has focused on helping advisors understand these behavioural patterns and guide clients through them with clarity and empathy.

PGP Academy has built strong collaborations with leading international and domestic institutions, bringing global best practices to Indian professionals. These partnerships have contributed to raising advisory standards and encouraging a shift from transactional selling to long-term stewardship.

The launch of PGP Wealth, a retirement planning-focused wealth management firm, is a natural extension of this philosophy. With rising life expectancies, changing family structures, and limited social security, retirement planning has emerged one of India's most urgent financial challenges. Retirement today is not a milestone but a multi-decade phase requiring careful planning, behavioural discipline, and continuous guidance.

Rahul Banerjee, founder, PGP Academy and PGP Wealth

"Retirement is a 25-to-30-year phase of life," Banerjee notes. "It demands patience, realistic expectations, and the ability to stay invested through uncertainty." Banerjee considers financial wellness a public responsibility. PGP Wealth is working with corporates to support employee financial wellness, helping individuals meet their financial goals, while enabling organizations to benefit from improved

focus, stability, and productivity. The firm is building awareness initiatives for college and MBA students, recognising that financial behaviour is shaped early and that a financially resilient India begins with informed young citizens.

Financial wellness, Banerjee believes, is ultimately about dignity, confidence, and peace of mind. As India's financial system matures, this long-term, behaviour-focused approach may prove essential to building lasting household wealth.



Vastu corrections without demolition

Internationally renowned Vastu expert Vimal Jhajharia and his son Vikas Jhajharia—an MBA from Australia—offer non-destructive Vastu corrections for toilets facing northeast, for homes that are south-facing, for the quick sale of land, various financial issues, health problems, matrimonial problems and so on. Using the well-known Vastu *shankha yantra*—a divine 40-year-old gift from Himalayan guru, Swami Murghandji which, when placed in a particular spot, increases positive energy and ensures financial and mental growth.

Says real estate tycoon Abhishek Kajaria, "We had been trying to sell one of our properties, that was a more



Vimal and Vikas Jhajharia

than 20-acre plot, for a long time but to no avail. However, after consultations with Jhajharia and the placement of the *shankha yantra*, the land

was sold easily." Talking about the problems he had in his factory, industrialist, Raghuvar Agarwal says, "We had toilets facing the northeast in our factory and we were facing a lot of financial issues. After placing the *yantra* the energy got maximised and we started seeing good results from day one."

Vikas Jhajharia who has toured USA, Australia, Singapore and Dubai, in last couple of months on his regular Vastu visits says, "Don't live or work in a property that has a south-facing entrance as it will definitely lead to financial issues. This can definitely be rectified using our Vastu *shankha yantra*. You need to try it to believe it."



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When women's dignity becomes policy, development becomes truly human



Krishnakumar KT, chairman & managing director, Oleveia Group

India's economic rise will be meaningful only when it moves hand in hand with the health, dignity, and the financial independence of its women. This belief lies at the heart of the leadership of Krishnakumar KT, chairman & managing director of the Oleveia Group, who is redefining what socially responsible business looks like in contemporary India.

His most impactful intervention in corporate culture has been the introduction of the one day 'paid menstrual wellness leave' every month for all women employees across his organizations. In a workplace ecosystem where menstruation is often treated as taboo or an

inconvenience, this policy marks a historic shift. There are no medical certificates, no intrusive questions, no judgment—only trust, respect and compassion.

Krishnakumar views menstruation not as a private burden but as a matter of workplace dignity and social justice. During their menstrual cycle, many women experience intense physical pain, emotional stress, fatigue and mental discomfort. Yet, in most institutions, adequate leave remains scarce. As a result, women are often forced either to work in pain or fabricate other reasons to take time off. This silent struggle creates

His vision
To drive ethical business practices, create employment, promote agricultural development, and foster financial literacy for a self-reliant society, all the while respecting nature and sustainable living.

unnecessary friction in workplaces—strained relationships with colleagues, customers, and supervisors—and eventually spills over into family life as well. Krishnakumar strongly believes that allowing women to rest in their comfortable, familiar environment during this period is not a privilege, but a basic human right. He also reminds us that such rest was historically part of Indian cultural practice, which has been misunderstood and distorted in recent decades.

Beyond workplace dignity, Krishnakumar drives transformation through financial empowerment. Through Oleveia Gramen Credits, an RBI-licensed NBFC, he has expanded ethical financial services across rural and semi-urban India, particularly supporting women entrepreneurs, self-help groups and tribal communities.

Oleveia's approach goes far beyond lending. It integrates financial literacy, savings education, investment awareness, and insurance planning, enabling women to transition from daily wage earners to confident micro-entrepreneurs.

Krishnakumar's commitment extends to sustainable agriculture and organic food systems, believing that healthy food

builds healthy families and, ultimately, a stronger nation. He also invests in youth employability and supports artists through skill development and creative platforms.

At the core of his mission lies a simple yet powerful conviction: "India becomes truly strong only when every woman feels safe, respected, and financially independent."

Through progressive policies, ethical finance, and community empowerment, Krishnakumar KT is not merely running businesses—he is shaping a more humane, equitable, and self-reliant India.

Key aspects of his work
Oleveia Group: Heads 10 diverse companies focusing on financial inclusion, sustainable agriculture, education (Jnan Institute of Bharat), and social causes.
Banking Expertise: Has extensive experience in banking and financial services, previously holding senior roles in major Indian banks.
Social Entrepreneurship: Aims to make individuals self-reliant by promoting financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and sustainable living.
Art & Leadership: Integrates his artistic background (he's an accomplished artist) with business, viewing creativity, empathy, and resilience as core business assets.
Progressive Workplace Initiatives: Championed paid menstrual wellness leave for women in the corporate sector.

Leading the Green Revolution: Debabrata Sarkar's journey

Debabrata Sarkar is a highly accomplished C-level executive and TEDx speaker with over 26 years of experience in the international agriculture sector and an executive body member of the Global Forbes Business Council. He holds a degree in agriculture and is an alumnus of IIM Calcutta. Throughout his career, he has successfully led strategic business units for leading global companies, specialising in agrochemicals, seeds, biotechnology, and biological industries across the Asia-Pacific region.

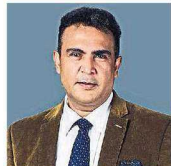
With stints at Monsanto, Chemtura, and Syngenta, Sarkar has held various leadership

positions. Presently, he serves as the CMD for AlgaEnergy India, a subsidiary of AlgaEnergy Spain. He also holds the position of director for AGMA Energy and acts as president-APAC for AE Biologicals.

Sarkar's expertise has earned recognition from *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *The Economic Times*, *TIME Magazine*, and other prestigious publications. He has received multiple awards for his exceptional leadership in sustainable agriculture, including the Best Bio Ag CEO award for three consecutive years (2022-2024) and the Times Leading Entrepreneurs award 2022. His work is shaping the future of

sustainable agriculture in India and beyond.

Sarkar's vision is centred around using microalgae-based solutions to heal the soil and boost productivity. AlgaEnergy India's approach has garnered recognition from *Forbes* India, scientific journals, and TEDx platforms. The company's expansion across the Asia-Pacific region signals a growing interest in sustainable agricultural practices. AlgaEnergy India's work represents a convergence of industrial and agricultural interests, where waste is transformed into a valuable resource. As India seeks to meet its climate commitments and



Debabrata Sarkar, CMD, AlgaEnergy India

feed its growing population, AlgaEnergy India's approach offers a promising solution. The company's focus on regeneration and sustainability positions it as a key player in India's agricultural transformation.

Dr Nagma Abbasi: A trailblazer shaping the future of biotechnology

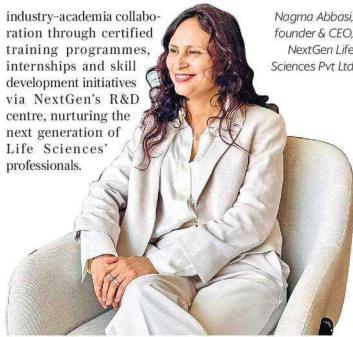
Dr Nagma Abbasi is a distinguished scientist, entrepreneur and industry leader, serving as the founder & CEO of NextGen Life Sciences Private Limited—one of India's most trusted biotechnology solution providers. Established in 2014, NextGen was envisioned as a comprehensive, single-source platform supporting advanced research in molecular biology, cell biology, immunology, healthcare and drug discovery.

With an accomplished career spanning reputed research institutions and leading multinational organizations, Dr Abbasi brings a rare blend of

scientific excellence and strategic leadership to the table. Under her stewardship, NextGen has emerged as a benchmark for quality, innovation, and reliability, delivering cutting-edge products, services, and technologies tailored to the evolving demands of the Life Sciences sector.

Her commitment to indigenous innovation is exemplified by the SciPhi™ product portfolio, developed under the Government of India's Make in India initiative and widely recognised for its performance and quality. A strong advocate of capacity building, Dr Abbasi actively promotes

industry-academia collaboration through certified training programmes, internships and skill development initiatives via NextGen's R&D centre, nurturing the next generation of Life Sciences' professionals.



Nagma Abbasi, founder & CEO, NextGen Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd.



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The fastener revolution comes to India

In 1999, as India's tech sector celebrated Y2K contracts and pharmaceutical companies courted global markets, Pankaj and Vipin Lidoo were fixated on something decidedly unglamorous: fasteners. The brothers had identified a critical vulnerability in India's booming construction sector. Self-drilling screws—essential components for the new colour-coated sheet technology transforming Indian architecture—were available from only one source: Taiwan.

"The entire construction industry was being held hostage to foreign suppliers for something as basic as a screw," recalls Pankaj Lidoo, now director of Landmark Crafts.

The Lidoo brothers saw this

as a business opportunity wrapped in a nationalist mission. After multiple research trips to Taiwan, heavy R&D investments and technology transfer negotiations, they established India's first indigenous manufacturing facility for self-drilling screws in Ghaziabad in the early 2000s. Betting their future on a product most entrepreneurs considered too mundane to matter, Landmark's products became the invisible sinews of national development long before "Made in India" became policy.

Realising that one-size-fits-all wouldn't work in a country as diverse as India, geographic customisation became Landmark Crafts' competitive edge, earning partnerships



Vipin Lidoo, managing director, Landmark Crafts

across metro systems in multiple cities. "In every assembled product, there is a fastener holding the structure strong and safe," Pankaj explains. "We provide the strength you may not see, but you can always trust."

Today, Landmark operates ISO 9001:2015-certified



Pankaj Lidoo, director, Landmark Crafts

facilities in Panchkula, backed by a CRISIL SME-1 rating. Its portfolio has expanded to aluminium blind rivets and drywall screws, with concrete wall screws in development, while a network of 10-11 marketing offices ensures nationwide reach.

A commitment to elevating patient care standards at CARE CIIGMA Hospitals

Founded in 2007 by Dr Unmesh Vidyadhar Takalkar, CIIGMA Hospital has emerged a revolutionary force in the healthcare landscape of Marathwada. Driven by a selfless passion for serving the community, Dr Takalkar's vision was to provide comprehensive healthcare solutions tailored to local needs.

Starting as a modest 40-bed facility, CIIGMA has evolved into an expansive 300-bed hospital, offering a wide range of medical services. Dr Takalkar's unwavering dedication to patient care has been instrumental in establishing the hospital's esteemed reputation in the region. CIIGMA's innovative healthcare initiatives span various disciplines, including oncology, heart transplants, neurosurgery, and infertility treatments. A significant milestone was reached in 2022 when United CIIGMA Hospital and CARE Hospitals forged a vital partnership, enhancing patient access to advanced facilities, including a new cancer hospital, bone marrow transplants, and immuno-therapy. Dr Takalkar also introduced the first robotic surgery unit in Marathwada, significantly advancing medical technology in the area. His outreach efforts aim to provide quality healthcare to every *tehsil* in Maharashtra, reflecting his commitment to inclusivity.

Dr Takalkar's journey in

medicine began in 1983. Inspired by his father's surgical legacy, which led him to pursue his MBBS—his aspiration to excel in surgery drove him to specialise in oncology at the prestigious Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai. Choosing to forgo lucrative opportunities abroad, he returned to Marathwada, driven by a vision of delivering world-class healthcare to his community.

To further enhance his expertise, he travelled internationally, earning Fellowships in pancreatic surgery in Switzerland. Upon returning to India, he honed his endoscopy skills under the mentorship of Dr D Nageshwar Reddy in Hyderabad. He also became a leading expert in gastroenterology, training under Dr Peter Cotton at the University of South Carolina. Over three



Dr Unmesh Vidyadhar Takalkar, CMD, CARE CIIGMA Hospital

The hospital's expanding outreach to every *tehsil* in Maharashtra reflects Dr Takalkar's inclusive vision of quality healthcare for all

decades, Dr Takalkar has performed more than 100,000 surgeries, ranging from complex oncology cases to intricate gastrointestinal procedures.

His relentless pursuit of excellence is encapsulated in his goal to "set new benchmarks in healthcare, offering multimodal treatments under one roof for patients with complex needs." Accredited by NABH and ISO, CARE CIIGMA upholds the highest quality standards, continuously establishing new benchmarks through the integration of cutting-edge solutions in

patient care. The hospital is also recognised for introducing numerous medical firsts in Marathwada, including the first heart transplant and the first robotic surgery, alongside advanced technologies such as the DRAGER medical gas system from Germany and a digital fusion ERCP system.

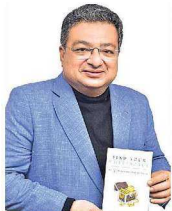
Dr Takalkar humbly shares the credit for CIIGMA's successes with his dedicated team of doctors, nurses and staff, who work tirelessly alongside him. "Our greatest strength is our competent staff," he emphasises.

www.carehospitals.com

WhiteSpace Consulting & Capability Building: Healthcare consulting that delivers

In healthcare and life sciences, ideas are abundant. What remains scarce is the ability to convert those ideas into consistent, on-ground action. Strategies are discussed and presentations approved, yet execution often weakens at the point where outcomes truly matter.

This persistent gap between thinking and doing led to the founding of WhiteSpace Consulting & Capability Building in 2012. The firm was created to help organisations move decisively from insight to action. Over the past decade, it has partnered with more than 50 corporates, delivered over



Vikram A Munshi, founder of WhiteSpace Consulting & Capability Building

300 projects, and invested upwards of 400,000 consulting hours—each directed toward

measurable business impact. WhiteSpace's work spans uncovering what doctors genuinely think, enabling marketing teams to apply learning beyond workshops, and supporting more patient-centric engagement. Its proprietary frameworks including CathEye, Brand Fitness Gym, and Persona 101 are grounded not in theory, but in repeated real-world applications across brands, teams, and therapy areas.

Central to this approach is the belief that transformation occurs at the intersection of focused ambition (will), the capability to act (skill), and disciplined follow-through (drill).

This philosophy is also reflected in *Find Your WhiteSpace*, a book by Vikram A Munshi, founder of WhiteSpace Consulting & Capability Building, which explores how individuals and organizations can drive meaningful transformation in both personal and professional contexts.

Recognised by *Forbes India*, *Business Today*, and *The Economic Times*, WhiteSpace is distinguished by documented evidence where strategy changed behaviour and behaviour delivered results. Ultimately, success in healthcare belongs to those who know how to make ideas work.

Inside Cosmo First's move beyond packaging

In 1981, when India's packaging industry was primitive, technical expertise scarce, and global competitors formidable, Ashok Jaipuria saw what others missed. "At that time, the Indian market was still reliant on conventional materials, and there was a clear gap for advanced, durable, and versatile packaging solutions," Jaipuria recalls. That gap gave birth to Cosmo Films—now Cosmo First—a company that exports to over 100 countries and partners with Nestlé, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, P&G, and Hindustan Unilever for their packaging solution needs.

By the 2000s, Cosmo ranked among the world's top BOPP producers with a 469,400 tonnes per annum capacity. But Jaipuria recognised the

commoditisation trap, pivoting toward specialty films, which now constitute 70% of Cosmo's portfolio, growing at 10% CAGR over six years.

Then came the disruptive move. In September 2021, Jaipuria launched Zigly, India's first organised omnichannel pet care brand. The shift to pet care follows a familiar playbook: enter fragmented, underdeveloped categories and formalise them through scale, standards and strong operating discipline. "I want our company to be the 'first' choice for all our stakeholders including our clients, partners, employees and consumers," Jaipuria explains. With over 35 experience centres across major cities and aggressive expansion plans, Zigly is

replicating Cosmo's playbook in consumer retail.

The diversification extends beyond pet care. Cosmo Specialty Chemicals addresses packaging masterbatches and adhesive needs. Cosmo Plastech brings rigid packaging solutions, while Cosmo Sunshield and Cosmo PPF serve automotive and architectural films. Sustainability ties Cosmo's diverse verticals together. Renewables meet 50% of its energy needs, set to rise to 65% delivering a saving of ₹20-25 crore annually. BOPP and CPP lines produce mono-layered, recyclable structures and Cosmo Synthetic Paper eliminates pulp altogether. Through Cosmo Foundation, Jaipuria has touched over 750,000 lives via



Ashok Jaipuria, chairman & MD, Cosmo First Limited

education initiatives; planted over 10,000 fruit trees with a 92% survival rate; and established urban forests. With this, he continues to create a better life for the people, the world, and the community built on trust, empathy, and compassion.

Grace Pinto: The education visionary powering future global workforce

As India advances toward a digital first, innovation-driven economy, Grace Pinto stands out as a transformative leader whose dynamic influence extends beyond classrooms and into shaping the nation's future leaders. For over half a century, Grace Pinto has dedicated herself to redefining educational excellence, blending values, innovation, and inclusivity in her relentless pursuit to build tomorrow's leaders. At the helm of the Ryan Group of Schools, that held its 50th anniversary recently, Grace Pinto oversees one of India's largest K-12 education networks—spanning 18 states and 40 cities, with over 250,000 students engaged in CISE, CISCE, IB, IGCSE, ISC and State

board curricula. Yet, her real legacy is reflected in the Ryan Group's adaptive resilience during one of the greatest disruptions in education history. When the pandemic upended learning worldwide, Grace Pinto's corporate style agility and deep empathy provided a beacon for millions of students and parents.

LEADERSHIP THROUGH CRISIS, BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Well before the pandemic disrupted education, the Ryan Group had already begun embracing digital technologies to enrich learning experiences and make education more engaging and accessible. In 2020, when remote learning became essential, Grace Pinto championed the creation of Ryan School OS—a

hybrid platform merging live instruction and self-paced study, which not only ensured education continuity, but deepened personalisation and accessibility for every child. "Learning must empower children with confidence, curiosity, and resilience," she asserts, articulating a vision anchored in holistic growth.

A LEADERSHIP PHILOSOPHY ENRICHED BY VALUES

Under Grace Pinto, the Ryan Motto—Excellence in Education and All-Round Development—has evolved to embrace future-ready skills: critical thinking, collaboration, communication, creativity, and entrepreneurship. Initiatives such as the Indian Model United Nations, International Theatre Festival, and a robust sports and arts ecosystem demonstrate her pioneering belief that holistic learning shapes future-ready global citizens.

To be an effective leader, one has to understand the need to revisit the curriculum and rethink methodology and assessment. It is essential to encourage teachers to learn, unlearn and relearn and reskill themselves to be well prepared as resource persons and facilitators for our young digital natives. In this age of technology, teachers and educators need to add that much-needed human touch and nurture values that will last for generations to come

Grace Pinto
managing director,
Ryan Group of Schools

THE POWER OF A WOMAN WHO SHAPES FUTURES

As India sees leaders capable of navigating unpredictability with clarity and compassion, Grace Pinto stands as a model of purpose-driven, future-oriented leadership. Her pioneering journey in education is a guiding light for the next generation, affirming that in shaping young minds, she is helping shape the destiny of an entire nation.

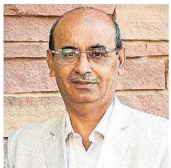
Dr Madhuresh K Sethi: Patent defender

In the unforgiving arena of pharmaceutical patent litigation, few names command as much respect as Dr Madhuresh Kumar Sethi. Pharma's most strategic patent warrior, Dr Sethi has helped secure first-to-market positions for blockbuster generics worth over \$500 million in combined market value. "Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought," says Dr Sethi, quoting Nobel Laureate Albert Szent-Györgyi—a philosophy that has guided his approach to both scientific innovation and legal strategy. "As researchers, our greatest metric isn't patents or profits. It's the lives improved because we dared to think differently."

During his tenure at Matrix Laboratories (then part of Viatris, Mylan), Dr Sethi led and executed patent defence strategies that helped secure market exclusivity for several critical pharmaceutical products including Perindopril, Lansoprazole, Sertraline, Milnacipran, antiviral therapies Pivastatin Calcium. His systematic approach—combining deep chemical knowledge with regulatory expertise—has made him the go-to strategist for Para IV patent challenges, the high-risk, high-reward filings that allow generic manufacturers to challenge brand-name drug patents.

Dr Sethi's recent triumph came in December 2024 with FDA approval for the Glucagon

injection, followed by approval, in August 2025, for the Iron Sucrose injection—victories that demonstrate his continued relevance in an evolving regulatory landscape. With over 100 patents and publications to his name, he doesn't just defend against litigation—he architects the entire development process to anticipate and neutralise potential challenges. His expertise spans green chemistry, biocatalysis, and nanomedicine, allowing him to design manufacturing processes that are both cost-effective and legally bulletproof. "Pharmaceutical research isn't just about developing new compounds; it's about transforming possibilities into realities for patients across the world," he explains.



Dr Madhuresh Kumar Sethi, Pharmaceutical R&D leader

Dr Sethi represents a new breed of scientific leader—one who understands that the most elegant molecule means nothing without the legal and regulatory framework to bring it to patients. His legacy lies in the accessible medicines those victories have delivered to markets worldwide.

