

TOP
100

ASIAN STARS IN UK TECH 2015



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Judging Criteria

1. For inclusion in this list individuals must reside predominantly in the UK and be of South Asian descent (i.e. those from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and their descendents or any genealogical combination of these).
2. Each individual was assigned a primary category e.g. investor. A second category has been assigned where the individual has more than one role e.g. entrepreneur and investor. The categories are Accelerator, Incubator, Investor, Digital Influencer, Entrepreneur, Technologist, Social Entrepreneur, Venture Capital.
3. Each individual's profile was developed based on:
 - their level of seniority and reach within their organisation – for the purposes of this list I have only included CEO, CTO, CDO, CMO, COO or equivalent titles.
 - their impact – this can either be based on number of ventures started, awards won, books and papers published, investment raised, exits achieved, people helped etc.
 - their level of innovation – this is strength of their business idea or scope of their strategy or plan.
 - their level of influence – this is a subjective criterion and would be determined by their public profile, social media followers, TED talks, podcasts, vodcasts, white papers, conference speeches, seminars hosted etc.
4. Individuals were then assessed from a longlist to a shortlist to a final list before being selected in the Top 5 categories of: Accelerators, Investors or Venture Capitalists grouped collectively as 'Investors', Digital Influencers and Technologists grouped collectively as 'Digital Influencers', Start-Ups, Social Entrepreneurs and Women.
5. Seven judges were asked to make their selections independently of each other with a casting vote by the Chair of the Judging Panel if required.
6. Judges were asked to declare any conflicts of interest and are excluded for consideration on the list.
7. The information for each individual has been compiled from published sources. Every possible effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this publication is accurate at the time of going to press. Notification of any errors, amendments or omissions can be sent via email to info@diversityuk.org



Celebrating the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech

Digital industries are among the fastest growing in Britain, accounting for 1.46 million jobs last year with demand for skilled individuals growing at a rate of 28% year on year according to statistics in the Tech Nation 2015 report published earlier this year. But the success of industry in the UK has been marred by its lack of female and ethnic diversity at all levels.

So to challenge the notion of the “white, young, male” stereotype, Diversity UK set itself a challenge to research the individuals working within the industry to see what it would find. Having spent the last 14 years publishing for the South Asian diaspora, my job was to start with a community I knew well. Imagine my surprise to quickly find over two hundred South Asian leading lights working in every corner of the British tech scene: from angel investing and startups, to fintech, cleantech, edtech, medtech and social enterprises.

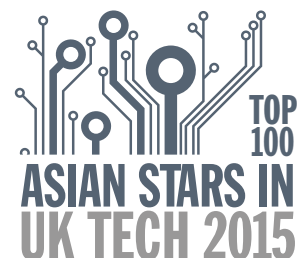
Wayra’s new StartUpDNA research has shown that the start-up system, in particular, is five times more likely to have individuals from ethnically diverse communities in C-Suite positions than FTSE 100 businesses. Furthermore, Wayra’s research showed that 18.7% of people working in startups are from an ethnic minority background, the majority of them Asian. This affirms reports that Asians are more entrepreneurial than the average UK population and is a mirror image of what is now happening in Silicon Valley, as Asians steadily establish their global digital empires.

Those from the “old tech” corporate world of proprietary software solutions are embracing the “new tech” world of cloud-based SaaS services, cybersecurity, mobile applications and collaborative working. And it is not for themselves alone, many Asians mentor startups and social entrepreneurs; others contribute to online learning, creative collaboration, knowledge transfer and skills sharing or run hubs and entrepreneurial bootcamps.

Like all startup adventures, this list was joint collaboration with a stellar line-up of judges - Rob Chapman, Patrick Imbach, Shivvy Jervis, Neeta Patel, Sarah Turner and our Chair, Dilip Joshi MBE - to whom I owe a huge thank you.

My thanks also to the KPMG High Technology Growth Group team for sharing their knowledge of the latest developments on the UK Tech scene and for sponsoring the launch of this list, the ‘Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2015’. Enjoy!

Regards
Lopa Patel MBE
Founder & CEO - Diversity UK (Curator)



Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2015



Diversity UK is a think tank to research, advocate and promote new ideas for improving diversity and inclusion in Britain. Diversity UK delivers its objectives by undertaking research, facilitating debates, hosting roundtable meetings, producing whitepapers and publishing a monthly newsletter focusing on contemporary equality issues. Diversity UK is a company (No: 8158970) & a registered charity (No: 1155189) in England & Wales

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NewAsianPost.com is a news, business and entertainment website for the South Asian diaspora. With an ambition to usher in a new era of high quality citizen journalism, NewAsianPost.com focuses on the 'untold stories and unheard voices' of the community.

www.newasianpost.com



Wayra is a start-up accelerator owned by Telefónica. Wayra first launched in Latin America and Spain in 2011 and there are now 12 Wayra academies in 12 countries in Europe and Latin America. Companies accepted into the Wayra programme receive funding of up to \$50,000 plus office space, mentoring and access to a wider investor network.

Over the last 3 years, Wayra UK & Wayra UnLtd start-ups have raised over to \$50m, with last year's cohort raising \$10.4m of that total before reaching demoDay, December 2014. To date, our companies have run 45 trials with Telefónica

KPMG's High Growth Technology Group is based in Shoreditch, London. The team is focused on helping early stage and high growth technology companies succeed through providing advice and assurance as well as contacts in the ecosystem for UK technology startups. The team's remit includes advising companies on: successfully scaling their business, understanding what tax incentives might be available, corporate structuring and expanding internationally, accessing equity and M&A transactions. Furthermore, KPMG's High Growth Technology Group hosts a range of industry and networking events for the startup community in London and supports a number of startup accelerator programmes as coaches and/ or mentors.

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UK, with companies like RotaGeek and Quidini being awarded contracts.

In 2015, Wayra UK welcomed 22 start-ups into its newly refurbished academy, half of which are being accelerated by Wayra UnLtd, the UK's first accelerator facility for digital technology social ventures. The social accelerator also tops the UK's Social Incubator Fund for third-party investment raised.

[@WayraUK | @WayraUnLtd](http://wayra.co.uk)

100 Asian Stars in UK Tech - A-Z list

1. Mr Adil Abrar, Founder, Mastered
2. Mr Tushar Agarwal, Co-Founder & CEO, Hubble
3. Mr Rajesh Agrawal, Founder & Chairman, Rational FX
4. Mr Ajaz Ahmed, Founder & CEO, AKQA
5. Mr Ajaz Ahmed, Founder, Legal365
6. Mr Ali Ahmed, Founder & CEO, Lutebox
7. Mr Azeem Azhar, Evangelist, Brandwatch
8. Mr Manoj Badale, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Blenheim Chalcot
9. Mr Hasan Bakhshi, Director, Creative Industries, Nesta
10. Mr Faisal Butt, Founder & CEO, Pi Labs
11. Mr James Caan, Chairman, StartUp Loans
12. Mr Rizwan Chand, CTO & Co-Founder, Vivid Technologies
13. Mr Suranga Chandratillake, General Partner, Balderton Capital
14. Mr Devin Chawda, Co-Founder & CEO, Y-Cam Solutions
15. Mr Ajay Chowdhury, Partner & Managing Director, BCG Digital Ventures
16. Mr Rishi Chowdhury, Founder, Incubus Ventures
17. Ms Sonali De Rycker, Partner, Accel Partner
18. Mr Rikesh Desai, Digital Entertainment & Games Director, BBC Worldwide
19. Mr Samir Desai, Co-Founder, The Funding Circle
20. Mr Rajeeb Dey, CEO, Enternships
21. Mr Dinesh Dhamija, Founder & Chairman, Copper Beech
22. Mr Gi Fernando, Founder, Freeformers
23. Mr Faisal Galaria, Managing Director, Alvarez & Marsal
24. Ms Rupa Ganatra, Co-Founder, YesSir.com
25. Mr Suran Goonatillake, CEO, Bodymetrics
26. Mr Imran Hakim, Founder, iTeddy
27. Mr Anuraag Jain, CTO, IntelliQ
28. Mr Satish Jayakumar, Co-Founder, Typeless
29. Mr Indy Johar Senior, Innovation Associate, The Young Foundation
30. Mr Nick Kandola, Co-Founder, Love Shopping Direct
31. Mr Hussein Kanji, Partner, Hoxton Ventures
32. Mr Mark Kanji, Founder, Apptivation
33. Ms Bindi Karia, Vice President, Silicon Valley Bank
34. Mr Faraz Khan, Co-Founder, Seed Ventures
35. Mr Shakil Khan, Head of Special Projects, Spotify
36. Ms Mitu Khandaker-Kokoris, Founder, The Tiniest Shark
37. Dame Zarine Kharas, CEO, Justgiving.com
38. Ms Shalini Khemka, Founder & CEO, E2Exchange
39. Mr Anand Krishan, General Manager, Microsoft App Ecosystem
40. Mr Nish Kukadia, Co-Founder, SecretSales.com
41. Ms Madhuban Kumar, CEO, Metafused
42. Ms Priya Lakhani, Founder, Century Tech
43. Mr Manish Madhvani, Managing Partner, GP Bullhound
44. Ms Aekta Mahajan, Head of Venture Capital, Unit UKTI
45. Mr Bhaskar Majumdar, Chairman, Health Ventures
46. Mr Ketan Makwana, CEO, Enterprise Lab
47. Ms Shomila Malik, Head, TheLab UK
48. Mr Krishan Meeto, Creative Director, Proversity.org
49. Ms Rekha Mehr, Director of Development, Mass Challenge UK
50. Mr Dharmash Mistry, Co-Founder & CEO, Blow
51. Ms Vin Murria, Founder & CEO, Advanced Computer Software Group
52. Mr Rajay Naik, CEO (UK), Plattform
53. Mr Rohit Nanda, COO, AssetMatch
54. Mr Rahul Parekh, Co-Founder, Eat First
55. Mr Ali Parsa, Founder, Babylon
56. Mr Nitin Passi, Founder, MissGuided.com
57. Mr Ajay Patel, Co-Founder & CEO, HighQ
58. Mr Alpesh Patel, Founding Partner, Praefinium Partners
59. Ms Sarika Patel, Partner, Zeus Capital
60. Dr Pathik Pathak, Director of Social Enterprise, University of Southampton
61. Mr Amit Pau, Director, Ariadne Capital
62. Mr Mark Perera, Founder & CEO, Old Street Labs
63. Mr Uday Phadke, CEO, Cartezia
64. Mr Anil Pillai, CEO, DigitasLBI
65. Mr Ash Puri, Early Stage Investor, Episode 1
66. Mr Debu Purkayastha, Entrepreneur In Residence, Octopus Investments
67. Mr Mohammed Raja, Co-Founder, Fare Exchange
68. **Ms Anjali Ramachandran, Head of Innovation, PHD UK**
69. Mr Raj Ramanandi, Founder, Soho Labs
70. Mr J P Rangaswami, Chief Data Officer, Deutsche Bank
71. Mr Deepak Rao, Venture Partner, Concentric Ventures
72. Mr Sohail Rashid, Founder & CEO, Property Network
73. Ms Yashu Reddy, Director, Healthbox Europe
74. Ms Sanchita Saha, Founder & CEO, CitySocialiser
75. Mr Dan Sandhu, Chairman & CEO, Digital Assess
76. Mr Darshan Sanghrajka, Founder, Super Being Labs
77. Mr Mehool Sanghrajka, Founder & CEO, Learning Possibilities
78. Mr Nishul Saperia, Entrepreneur & Investor
79. Mr Samir Seetal, Co-Founder & CTO, Zzish
80. Ms Salone Sehgal, CEO, Truly Social
81. Mr Sandeep Senghera, CEO Toothpick
82. Mr Sam Sethi, CTO, Bagzee
83. Mr Nikhil Shah, Co-Founder MixCloud
84. Ms Shilpa Shah, Founder, Deloitte Women in Tech Network
85. Ms Cynthia Shanmugalingam, Founder & CEO, Kitchenette
86. Mr Rohan Silva, Founder, SecondHome Hub
87. Mr Dajit Singh, Executive Creative, Director Happiness
88. Mr Mandeep Singh, CEO, Streethub.com
89. Mr Narry Singh, Managing Director, Digital Business Strategy Accenture
90. Mr Raj Singh, CEO, Soqini
91. Mr Raj Sivalingam, Executive Director, Telecoms UK Tech
92. Ms Reshma Sohoni, CEO, Seedcamp
93. Mr Anil Stocker, CEO & Co-Founder, Market Invoice
94. Dr Srini Sundaram, Co-Founder, Aire
95. Ms Sitar Teli, Managing Partner, Connect Ventures
96. Mr Permjot Valia, Chairman & Investor, Wooshii
97. Mr Aneesh Verma, Co-Founder, Aire
98. Mr Salim Virani, Partner Founder, Centric
99. Mr Krishna Visvanathan, Managing Partner, DFJ Esprit LLP
100. Dr Shailendra Vyakarnam, Director Cranfield, Bettany Centre for Entrepreneurship



Top 5 StartUps

1. Mr Suran Goonatilake CEO Bodymetrics
2. Mr Darshan Sanghrajka
Founder Super Being Labs
3. Mr Nikhil Shah Co-Founder MixCloud
4. Mr Anil Stocker CEO & Co-Founder
Market Invoice
5. Dr Srinidhi Sundaram Co-Founder Aire



Top 5 Women

1. Ms Bindi Karia Vice President
Silicon Valley Bank
2. Dame Zarine Kharas, CEO, Justgiving.com
3. Ms Priya Lakhani Founder Century Tech
4. Ms Anjali Ramachandran
Head of Innovation PHD UK
5. Ms Reshma Sohoni CEO Seedcamp





Mohammed Raja Co-Founder - Fare Exchange Network

Mohammed (Mo) Raja is Co-Founder of Fare Exchange Network which helps minicab firms to achieve a competitive edge by boosting their ability to generate more phone calls & bookings from customers using digital channels. Fare Exchange had handled over 1.5 million calls for cabs to date, generated over £20 million in fares and has over 10,000 Minicabs and Taxis listed as part of the network. Following a BA (Hons) Business Studies with Marketing degree from London South Bank University, Mo started his career with Thomson Directories where he was responsible for taking Thomson Local online. He then moved to home and local information Internet service Upmystreet.com followed by stints at Ask.com, 192.com, Passado, ITV Local, the Local Data Company, TripAdvisor and Health IQ before co-founding Fare Exchange. Mo has 20 years of multi sector business experience and a passion for developing new businesses, supporting other entrepreneurs and offering advisory services. He has mentored more than 30 companies and served as a one-to-one mentor for the Cherie Blair Foundation.

Anjali Ramachandran Head of Innovation at PHD UK

Anjali Ramachandran is Head of Innovation at PHD UK and a member of the executive leadership team of Omnicom's Innovation Group, connecting media startups with client opportunities. She works with PHD teams for a range of clients including Sainsbury's, Warner Bros, Mondelez International, Experian, Confused.com, British Heart Foundation, Seat and Global Radio. She is also the co-founder of Ada's List, an online forum for women in tech/digital across the UK and Europe; a Board Advisor for Angel Academe, a network for professional women with extensive business experiences who want to support tech entrepreneurs; a Board Advisor to Libertine groundbreaking print magazine for thinking women and an Advisor to The Cube London, a curated, diverse and smart community of scientists, engineers, designers and technologists. She holds a B.A degree in Sociology from the **Stella Maris College** and an MSc in Social Policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science



Raj Ramanandi Founder - Soho Labs

Raj Ramanandi is an Angel investor in early stage tech startups around the world and is based in London. He is Founder of Soho Labs, a co-working space in the heart of Soho, London; Co-Founder of social media app PocketSocial; and Founder Partner of 1seed, an early stage tech investment company. 1Seed has done ten deals to date including Toothpick.com, Techstars.com London, Festicket.com and Seedrs.com among others. Raj has previously been involved in exits (Oddschecker.com sold to UK Betting plc and then to British Sky Broadcasting), an IPO (Aqua Online) and a successful agency (Digital Prophets Ltd). He holds a BA in International Relations from the University of Westminster and an MA in International Business Management from Westminster Business School. He is also a Mentor at Techstars, SeedCamp, Entrepreneur First, Springboard & Startup Weekend amongst others across Europe.

