

# Lighting lives

During the Festival of Lights, Amdavadis reveal who has been an inspiration to them, changing their lives for the better



**Sudhir Jain**

Director, IIT-Gn

A few years ago, I punished an undergraduate student by directing him to do community service. He worked with the underprivileged and became passionate about the cause. He began teaching kids of construction workers and worked for the uplift of the poor. The change in the student brought a change in me. I realised that given an opportunity, youth have the potential to solve the problems that the country faces.

**Khushnu Panthaki Hoof**

Architect

I have been inspired by a lot of people this year and each one has opened up a new way of looking at things. It has been very enriching. Whether it's someone who is differently abled or someone known or my daughter or someone just around the corner or an intellectual or a book or a painting, I have found inspiration everywhere! There is so much to get inspired by and learn every day from everyone.



**Preeti Shroff**

Business

I was a student at St Xavier's College in Ahmedabad when Prof Sarvar Khambatta and Father Fernando Franco started a Social Management programme. I did not have any exposure to rural life before this. It was through this programme that I got to know people's struggle to get even basic amenities of life. It exposed me to a very different side of life. It taught me humility. This is why I believe that educators can wrought a change a person.

**Ingit Anand**

Freeman

My wife has been a ray of hope for me this year. After my father passed away, I entered one of the darkest moments in my life. That is when my wife encouraged me to resume my workout for the triathlon. Keeping myself busy with workout after my daily work helped me improve my performance. I registered for the second race and achieved better timing. I became a better athlete thanks to my wife's support and father's blessings.



INDIA JAMNUR



**Rajeev Khandelwal**

Actor

I don't have any individual as a ray of hope in my life. I look back at my life and the moments I overcame with my own strengths. I am my own ray of hope because nobody can come to my rescue other than me. When I look back I know I am the one who pulled me out of any mess in my life. I look up to that strength, that power, and remind myself that "Rajeev if you could do that back in the day, then you can do it now."



**Bhakti Kubavat**

Actor

My mother is a psychological counsellor and my father is a doctor. I have seen my parents soiling so many lives and giving meaning to other people's lives that it has instilled in me a sense to do something for the society. This year, my father - who fought cancer - has been an inspiration for me. He always puts his patients and family ahead of him, and spreads awareness about health through social media regardless of the position he is in.

Inputs by Nik Brahmhatt, Niyati Rana and Sonia Gervase



## Sudhir Jain

Director, IIT-Gn

A few years ago, I punished an undergraduate student by directing him to do community service. He worked with the underprivileged and became passionate about the cause. He began teaching kids of construction workers and worked for the uplift of the poor. The change in the student brought a change in me. I realised that given an opportunity, youth have the potential to solve the problems that the country faces.

**Title:** Lighting lives

**Source:** Ahmedabad Mirror (Pg. No. 7)

**Link:** <https://ahmedabadmirror.indiatimes.com/ahmedabad/others/lighting-lives/articleshow/66535722.cms>

**Date:** 08-11-2018