



## PRESS RELEASE

### **20 Asian Tech Pioneers honoured in 2020**

**London, December 11 2020:** Twenty of Britain's leading **Asian Tech Pioneers** were honoured, by equality and inclusion charity Diversity UK, on the publication of its annual Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list yesterday. The list celebrates diversity in the digital sector with a focus on disruptive technologies and celebrated its sixth anniversary this year.

Among those recognised with an Asian Tech Pioneers Award are **Demis Hassabis**, Co-Founder & CEO of Deepmind, that recently announced that its AI application, AlphaFold, which performs predictions of protein structure, had found a solution to a 50-year-old grand challenge in biology; **Ilyas Khan KSG**, Co-Founder & CEO of Cambridge Quantum Computing which is developing quantum solutions to tackle some of industry's most intriguing challenges; **Dr Lewis Liu**, Co-Founder & CEO of Eigen Technologies, that uses natural language processing (NLP) to extract and classify critical data for financial services and **Husayn Kassai** and **Eamon Jubbawy**, Co-Founders of Onfido which uses machine learning and facial biometrics for identity verification, setting a new digital identity standard for the internet. Innovators honoured included **Dr Mahiben (Ben) Maruthappu MBE**, Co-Founder & CEO of Cera which designs professional home care services and **Neal Gandhi**, Co-Founder & CEO of The Panoply Holdings plc, a purpose driven company that is helping people and organisations to successfully navigate the fourth industrial revolution.

**Lopa Patel MBE**, list curator and Chair of Diversity UK said: *"It has been the most difficult year in all of our lives, so I am delighted that the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list has marked its sixth anniversary with a stellar list of nominees and that we have been able to honour 20 amazing **Asian Tech Pioneers** who have been selected by a judging panel of their peers, who themselves were inducted as pioneers last year."*

*The Asian Tech Pioneers exemplify how the tech sector has matured over the past few years; deeptech and artificial intelligence (AI) continue to be a star sector in Britain, but we also have to note the emergence of successful, robust healthtech and wellbeing platforms and the renewed efforts of edtech platforms to reach more online learners than ever before. In addition, among the Asian Tech Pioneers list are accelerators, influencers, investors, and VCs whose collective efforts will be really needed in the coming years if Britain is to bounce back entrepreneurially from the impact of the pandemic".*

Asian Tech Pioneers recognised for supporting the tech ecosystem include **Hanadi Jabado**, Managing Director of CMS Ventures, **Jacqueline de Rojas CBE**, President of Tech UK, **Krishna Visvanthan**, Co-Founder & Partner of Crane Venture Partners, **Priya Guha**, Venture Partner at Merian Ventures, **Stephen Ong**, Co-Founder of The Hub Exchange and **Dr Vishal Gulati**, Healthtech VC at Draper Esprit.

The official list of the **Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2020** was published yesterday by Diversity UK and aims to highlight the ground-breaking business models, apps, funding and support networks being created by Asian digital entrepreneurs. The list addresses the perceived lack of diversity in the tech sector and showcases the wealth of talent that is currently growing the British tech scene. The list also showcases the top five Asians in the UK involved in business, healthtech, investors, startups and sustainability, as chosen by the judges.

The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list and Diversity UK are the brainchild of the digital entrepreneur Lopa Patel MBE who has long been recognised as an evangelist for STEM and the tech industries in the UK.

For further details visit <https://asiansintech.com/>

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## Notes for Editors:

### Asian Tech Pioneers 2020

*The full list of Asian Tech Pioneers 2020, in alphabetical order by surname:*

1. **Vikrant Bhargava**, Founder & Chairman - First Tech Challenge UK
2. **Saurav Chopra**, Co-Founder & Executive Chairman - Perkbox
3. **Jacqueline De Rojas** CBE, President - Tech UK
4. **Alpesh Doshi**, Founder & CEO - Fintricity
5. **Neal Gandhi**, Co-Founder & CEO - The Panoply Holdings plc
6. **Priya Guha**, Venture Partner - Merian Ventures
7. **Vishal Gulati**, Healthtech VC - Draper Esprit
8. **Demis Hassabis**, Co-Founder & CEO - Deepmind
9. **Hanadi Jabado**, Managing Director - CMS Ventures
10. **Jaidev Janardana**, Group CEO - Zopa
11. **Eamon Jubbawy**, Co-Founder & COO - Onfido
12. **Husayn Kassai**, Co-Founder - Onfido
13. **Ilyas Khan**, Co-Founder & CEO - Cambridge Quantum Computing
14. **Lewis Liu**, Co-Founder & CEO - Eigen Technologies
15. **Mahiben (Ben) Maruthappu** MBE, Co-founder & CEO - Cera
16. **Dhiraj Mukherjee**, Co-Founder - Shazam
17. **Stephen Ong**, Co-Founder - The Hub Exchange
18. **Mehool Sanghrajka** MBE, Founder & CEO - Learning Possibilities
19. **Mandeep Singh**, CEO - Trouva
20. **Krishna Visvanathan**, Co-Founder & Partner - Crane Venture Partners

The full list of Asian Tech Pioneers can be viewed here: <https://asiansintech.com/asian-tech-pioneers/>

### About Asians in Tech

The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech is the definitive list of Asians working in the digital and technology sectors in Britain. The aim of the list is to showcase diverse talent; from startup founders, technologists, venture capitalists and investors; to the game changers and digital influencers in business and social enterprise.

<http://asiansintech.com> | [@asiansintech](https://twitter.com/asiansintech)

### About Diversity UK

Diversity UK is an equality and inclusion charity to promote ideas for improving diversity and inclusion in Britain. Diversity UK delivers its objectives by undertaking research and consultations, facilitating debates, hosting roundtable meetings and by publishing a monthly newsletter focusing on contemporary equality issues. In November, it also hosts the annual Paul Stephenson lecture, named after the pioneering British civil rights campaigner, on race and equality. Diversity UK is a registered charity (No: 1155189) in England & Wales.

<https://diversityuk.org> | [@diversityuk](https://twitter.com/diversityuk)

### About Lopa Patel MBE

#### Digital Entrepreneur, Chair - Diversity UK

Lopa Patel MBE is a digital entrepreneur with significant experience of creating start-ups and transforming businesses through technology. The founder of two ventures in online media and a data-driven marketing consultancy, she is also Chair of equality and inclusion charity, Diversity UK; a Trustee of The Science Museum Group; a Non-Executive Director of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and a Council Member of the Open University (OU). With a lifelong love of science and technology, she is an evangelist for STEM, innovation and bridging the skills gap in business. She has been recognised with accolades including an MBE for services to the creative industries, the Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion.

### For further details contact:

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