



PRESS RELEASE

Women storm the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2021 list

London, July 9th 2021: Women have stormed the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2021 list, for the first time ever, accounting for 52% of the index which is published annually by equality charity Diversity UK in its effort to celebrate diversity in the digital sector. Now in its seventh year, the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech List focuses on disruptive technologies and showcases the wealth of talent that is currently growing the British tech scene.

Over the last seven years, women's representation in the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list has increased from 21% in 2015 to 52% in 2021 even as the list has grown and become increasingly competitive, with each year attracting more nominations than the previous year. In 2019, the charity created the additional Asian Tech Pioneers list, now judged by a panel of their peers, to highlight the role well-known individual pioneers play in the growing recognition of the UK as a world leading innovator. Women account for 18% of the Asian Tech Pioneers list, perhaps reflecting their historic under-representation in the tech sector.

Lopa Patel MBE, list curator and Chair of Diversity UK said: *"It took me by surprise that women accounted for more than half the shortlisted nominees in this year's Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list as I was focussed on reaching as many more new nominees this year as we did last year. I am delighted that the list has marked its seventh anniversary with a stellar list of nominees, including another year with a record number of new nominees (60%) and that we have been able to honour twenty-one amazing **Asian Tech Pioneers** who have been selected by a judging panel of their own peers.*

It is doubly pleasing that newer sectors like greentech and healthtech at 14% each are now being represented well against categories like business (22%) and investors (18%). In addition to dominating the list, women are also well represented in all the Top 5 categories the list showcases and 3 women were highlighted in the investors and startups categories, which have historically been largely male-dominated. For five years, we had a 'Women's' category, only dropping it last year in favour of the healthtech category. The emergence of leading women in the life sciences, healthtech and wellbeing category is pleasing and if Britain is to bounce back entrepreneurially from the impact of the pandemic, it is doubly thrilling to see women coming through the ranks in all other sectors too."

The judging panel for the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list is evenly balanced between female and male judges and included new judges **Naheed Afzal**, Co-Founder & CEO of recruitment consultancy Contracts IT; **Janet Coyle**, Managing Director Business Growth at London & Partners and **Debbie Forster MBE**, CEO at Tech Talent Charter, alongside a panel of investors, technologists and tech ecosystem supporters. The judges also showcase the top five Asians in the UK involved in business, greentech, healthtech, investors and startups.

The official list of the **Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2021** 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. Based on feedback received by the charity, Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech nominees make valuable connections that help fund and scale their businesses; join accelerator programmes and trade missions; are recognised by other publications and go on to win competitions, grants and awards.

The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list, NewAsianPost.com 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/top-100-asian-stars-in-uk-tech-2021/>

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Notes for Editors:

For Press Images, visit: <https://bit.ly/3yCiyiD>

The Judging Panel 2021

1. **Naheed Afzal**, Co-Founder & CEO, Contracts IT
2. **Janet Coyle**, Managing Director Business Growth, London & Partners
3. **Harry Rhys Davies**, Chief of Staff, Grey Parrot
4. **Debbie Forster MBE**, CEO, Tech Talent Charter
5. **Volker Hirsch**, Partner, Amadeus Capital Partners
6. **Gurpreet Manku**, Deputy Director General & Director of Policy, BVCA
7. **Lopa Patel MBE**, Chair, Diversity UK **[CHAIR OF PANEL]**
8. **Matt Smith**, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurs
9. **Nick Travis**, Head of Entrepreneurs, Smith & Williamson
10. **Guy Weaver**, Director, Praetura Ventures

The full list of judges can be viewed here: <https://asiansintech.com/judges-2021/>

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

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