

## UK Tech ecosystem heroes honoured as Asian Tech Pioneers 2022

**London, [7 July 2022]:** Twenty of Britain's leading **UK Tech ecosystem heroes** were honoured as Asian Tech Pioneers 2022 by equality charity Diversity UK, publishers of the annual Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list. The awards were presented by Ramesh Vala CBE, Chairman of the Judging Panel 2022 and sponsors; Nasser Ali Khasawneh, Partner & Global Head of TMT, Eversheds Sutherland; Jo-Ann Robertson, President, Global Markets, Ketchum, and Adrian Simpson, Co-Founder, Wavelength at the launch of the eight edition of the list, last night.

Among those recognised with an Asian Tech Pioneers Award 2022 are **Herb Kim**, best known as the Founder of the Thinking Digital Conference which celebrated its 14th Anniversary in 2022 at the iconic Sage Gateshead Conference Centre; Newcastle-based **Sarat Pediredla** who is the CEO of Hedgehog Lab, a global product consultancy which focuses on assisting brands and enterprises in achieving their business goals using emerging technologies; **Tanya Laird**, the Founder of Digital Jam and creator of the the VR Writers Room and the co-organiser for the world's largest VR & AR meetup group "Augmenting Reality" and **Lu Li**, the Founder of Blooming Founders, a London-based company that provides female-friendly co-working spaces and events for early stage founders.

Investors recognised with the Asian Tech Pioneers award include **Imran Akram**, a London based growth capital investor at AXA Venture Partners, the \$275M fund investing in enterprise software, fintech, consumer and digital health; **Mo Aneese**, Investment Director at Livingbridge, a mid-market Private Equity firm investing between £10m-£150m in high growth businesses valued between £20m and £400m; **Kevin Chong** who is Co-Head at Outward VC which invests at late-seed to series B in entrepreneurs seeking to build category-defining fintech companies and **Reece Chowdhry**, the Founder and CEO of the Concept Ventures, which has created the largest dedicated pre-seed technology fund in the UK (\$62m).

**Lopa Patel MBE**, list curator and Chair of Diversity UK said: *"It is inspiring to see so many Pioneers scale new heights over the past year, helping entrepreneurs to succeed via investment and funding or ecosystem support services that have been sadly hollowed-out since the pandemic. I am delighted that the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list has marked its eight anniversary and that we have been able to honour twenty amazing Asian Tech Pioneers, including for the first time ever 8 inspirational women who make up 40% of the index this year. The Asian Tech Pioneers index now stands at 91 individuals and it is pleasing to see that newer sectors like AI and healthtech are now being represented well against categories like business (20%) and investors (25%)."*

Women **Asian Tech Pioneers** recognised for championing entrepreneurship include Bristol-based **Jaya Chakrabarti MBE** who is a passionate advocate for engaging business with the community through technology to improve people's lives; **Chelsea Chen**, the co-founder of Emotech Ltd, one of the world's first tech companies dedicated to exploring proactivity and multimodality in AI; **Pae Natwilai**, the Founder and CEO of Gettrik with one of its most well-known software being TRIK, a drone mapping and 3D reporting software for structural inspection. Healthtech heroes include **Dr Ishani Patel**, a GP and Co-founder of Lantum, which provides software to help NHS practices and surgeries find locum doctors and **Sonia Patel**, the System CIO at NHS England, leading on the multi-billion pound ministerial priority to 'level-up' digital infrastructure and literacy for NHS and care. Women make up 24.2% of the Asian Tech Pioneers list overall.

The official list of the **Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2022** 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 helping the British tech scene grow exponentially. 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.

## Notes for Editors:

### Press Kit

Diversity Tech Summit 2022 - Images: <https://bit.ly/3ABOfst>

Diversity Tech Summit 2022 - Press Kit: <https://bit.ly/3u4v2vJ>

Diversity Champion Award 2022 - Images: <https://bit.ly/3c0IESr>

Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2022 - Launch Images: <https://bit.ly/3PeYkzS>

Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2022 - Chairman's Award Images: <https://bit.ly/3P49VI8>

Asian Tech Pioneers 2022 - Images: <https://bit.ly/3P9Kz5m>

### Asian Tech Pioneers 2022

The Asian Tech Pioneers 2022 list is **not** ranked, but presented in alphabetical order by last name:

1. Imran Akram, General Partner - AXA Strategic Ventures
2. Mo Aneese, Investment Director - Livingbridge EP LLP
3. Jaya Chakrabarti MBE, CEO - Tiscreport
4. Chelsea Chen, Co-Founder - Emotech
5. Kevin Chong, Co-Head - Outward VC
6. Reece Chowdhry, Founding Partner - RLC Ventures
7. Dhruv Ghulati, Senior Product Manager - Onfido
8. Herb Kim, Founder & CEO - The Thinking Digital Conference
9. Tanya Laird, Founder - Digital Jam
10. Sai Lakshmi, Founder & CEO - Caura
11. Lu Li, Founder & CEO - Blooming Founders
12. Avi Mehra, Co-Founder & Managing Director - Doctorpreneurs
13. Pae Natwilai, Founder - Trik
14. Rahul Parekh, Principal 2150 - Venture Capital
15. Ishani Patel, Co-Founder - Lantum
16. Sonia Patel, System CIO & Director of Levelling Up - NHS England
17. Sarat Pediredla, CEO - Hedgehog Lab
18. Avin Rabheru MBE, Founder & CEO - Housekeep
19. Dan Sandhu, CEO - Sparx
20. Sheeza Shah, Founder & CEO - UpEffect

\* Images available for those highlighted

### 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. [www.asiansintech.com](http://www.asiansintech.com) | [@asiansintech](https://twitter.com/asiansintech)

### Social Media

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## About Diversity UK

iversity UK is an equality and inclusion charity that researches, advocates and promotes ideas for improving diversity in Britain. Diversity UK delivers its charitable objectives by undertaking research, facilitating debates, hosting roundtable meetings, producing white papers and publishing a monthly newsletter focusing on contemporary equality issues. Diversity UK is a registered charity (No: 1155189) in England & Wales. [www.diversityuk.org](http://www.diversityuk.org) | [@diversityuk](https://twitter.com/diversityuk)

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## About Eversheds Sutherland

As a global top 10 law firm, Eversheds Sutherland provides legal services to a global client base. With more than 3,000 lawyers, Eversheds Sutherland operates in over 70 offices in more than 30 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the United States. In addition, a network of more than 200 related law firms, including formalised alliances in Latin America, Asia Pacific and Africa, provide support around the globe.

We recognise that having diverse talent across our business brings many benefits. We are committed to accessing a wide range of views, perspectives and thinking in all our teams and in this way, we are building a culture of inclusion, where each person feels able to be their true self at work and reach their full potential. We know that diverse and inclusive organisations are more productive, more innovative, perform better and have stronger levels of engagement from their people.

Diversity and Inclusion is fundamental to the firm's purpose of "helping our clients, our people and our communities to thrive", and 'Inclusive' is one of our five values. Our strategy encompasses a number of diversity dimensions including ethnicity; gender; disability; sexual orientation, gender identity and expression; parenting and caring; faith and social mobility.

By embracing diversity, we can better partner with our global and diverse client base, and be open and welcoming to all, across the communities we live and work in.

For further information, visit [www.eversheds-sutherland.com](http://www.eversheds-sutherland.com)

## About Ketchum

Ketchum is a global communications consultancy that is passionate about doing work that matters and is leading the industry in the need for progress and improvements in DE&I. We bring the resources, structure specialisms and delivery of a big agency, with the passion, agility and contacts of the boutiques. Because we're multi-disciplinary by nature, we pride ourselves on being able to flex our talent depending on the challenge at hand. Diversity and Inclusion is our number one business priority. It is embedded throughout our culture, values and work and we're proud to have one of the most diverse creative teams in the industry producing work that matters. In 2021 we officially became the most awarded communications consultancy for DE&I. To find out more please visit: [www.ketchum.com/london](http://www.ketchum.com/london)

## About Wavelength UK

Wavelength is a world-class leadership company. We aim to make the world better through business, by enabling ambitious leaders to develop their connectivity, knowledge and resilience. We understand the key issues facing companies today: employee engagement, service excellence, social innovation, digital disruption, leadership resilience and change management. Our unique programmes and insider access to progressive and inspiring organisations offer a radically different model for learning and tangible return on investment. For further information, visit [www.wavelengthleadership.com](http://www.wavelengthleadership.com)