

# THE JOB FACTORY



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# Curriculum Vitae

On Oct 2nd 2005, in the presence of the Hon'ble President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the Mahindra Group took a pledge - a Pledge for Affirmative Action.

Despite 15 years of economic reforms, youth from socially and economically disadvantaged communities had not found adequate representation in the roster of organised private sector companies in India Inc. This was particularly alarming given that 65% of India's population was below the age of 35 years and the much touted 'demographic dividend' was threatening to become a liability for the nation. In this background, the Mahindra Group entrusted Naandi Foundation with the task of designing and implementing a programme that would skill and create jobs for disadvantaged youth.

Under the 'Mahindra Pride Schools' banner, Naandi designed a framework for creating jobs in the organised sector for unemployed youth from underprivileged backgrounds. The programme involved mobilising and enrolling youth from slums and low-income communities for a 90-day non-residential

course. Apart from the compulsory 'life-skills' module consisting of English proficiency, digital literacy, grooming and personality development, the programme offered a specialised elective for specific sectors such as ITES, Retail, Hospitality, and Automobile. The tailor-made curriculum was created by working in close consultation with the industry and this resulted in every student getting a job offer as soon as they completed the course. In other words, every student who 'graduated' from the Mahindra Pride School got a confirmed full-time corporate job!

Naandi designed a three-step programme. First, they mobilised underprivileged and unemployed youth; skilled them for 90 days and placed them in companies in the formal sector with a full-time job that fetched the proverbial five-figure salary per month. Starting with the first Mahindra Pride School in Pune, the programme expanded to 8 more Schools located in Chennai, Patna, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Hyderabad and Varanasi. These schools ensured a record 100% placement for their students.

Seeing that Naandi had cracked the 'job guarantee' formula by 2016, an asset-light version of the programme was innovated to spread this magic curriculum to over 1000 locations across India. The new framework created Mahindra Pride Classrooms inside a chosen network of vocational schools like ITIs, polytechnics, and government degree colleges. This collaboration allowed 'the conveyor belt' of job-creation to spread to 17 states in India and impact over a quarter million youth.

On Oct 2nd 2020, as the Mahindra Group completes 75 years of its existence, it is a matter of pride to report that 100,000 unemployed youth have got gainful employment in the organised sector in India in the last 15 years. It is indeed humbling to look back upon the fact and see that we far surpassed our own expectations of a promise made 15 years ago. The Mahindra Pride School programme has become a veritable Job Factory by metamorphosing youth who were unskilled and deemed 'unemployable' to a career in the organised sector.

This has been transformative for the dignity and economic status of their families impacting close to half million lives.

The students of Mahindra Pride School seemed to represent the various faces of adversity – extreme indebtedness of parents; orphaned at a young age or raised by a single parent; tortured by domestic violence; victims of substance abuse; and such other hardships of broken lives that could only be fixed by a sustained livelihood. It required an extraordinarily innovative (read emotive) curriculum to transform the minds of these students from despair to hope.

This book tells 75 stories of how the harshness of the ovarian lottery was reversed and how a new course of life, or curriculum vitae in Latin, was charted.

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# Nuts & Bolts

When dispossessed, underprivileged youth from fractured backgrounds and labelled as ‘unemployable’ are schooled for the second time around, what is the magic sauce in the curriculum required to ensure they transform, learn new skills and be job-ready? This is the million-dollar question that the team at Naandi Foundation faced in order to fulfil the promise of affirmative action made by the Mahindra Group to the nation. After getting proximate with the youth, lending them ears and shoulders, the solution seemed very simple. It became evident that by developing self-belief through unconditional trust and confidence in the youth it was possible to upskill and land them jobs in the formal sector. Tightening the nuts & bolts would do the trick!

This book uniquely chronicles 75 profiles in courage by highlighting the triumphs of the youth and not their string of failures. The course of their life before enrolment into the Mahindra Pride Schools is depicted in black and white sketches – almost like a fading silhouette of a past they wish to forget. Their present is highlighted in colour photographs

to celebrate how they rewrote their destiny. We have left out the tears of joy and gratitude these students expressed while paying tribute to the extraordinary team of their ‘teachers’ or ‘soul doctors’ who proved that empathy, compassion, and unconditional love still exists and can transform anyone any time. In the spirit of carrying out acts of selfless service, the faculty shall remain unnamed.

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*“When I visited the Mahindra Pride School in Chennai and met the students, I wondered why we refer to them as youth from the ‘weaker sections of society.’*

*When I heard their life stories and felt their indomitable spirit, I realised that they are, in fact, the ‘stronger’ sections of our society.”*

- Anand Mahindra



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# Anand Gaikwad

F&B SUPERVISOR  
**ROCOMAMAS**

As a farmer's son, Anand moved from Solapur to Pune in search of better job opportunities. After his training at RocoMamas in South Africa, he now earns a stable income as the Food & Beverage Supervisor at its Pune branch.



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# Rajini Trikovela

ASSOCIATE  
TCS

Rajini drew great inspiration from her mother who alternated between being a nurse and working as a house help to bring up two daughters. Rajini is now with Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. earning a decent livelihood for her mother and sister.





PUNE

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# *Kiran Shinde*

DEPUTY CHEF DE PARTIE  
**JW MARRIOTT**

Kiran struggled through his childhood growing up as an orphan at an Ashram. He battled grief and loss and worked hard to make ends meet. After several odd jobs, he is now working as a Deputy Chef de Partie at JW Marriott.



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# Shashikala Bandaru

PROCESS ASSOCIATE  
**TCS**

Daughter of an alcoholic father, Shashikala had to work as a labourer grinding stones to make gravel for concrete. Today, she is a Software Tester with Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.



HYDERABAD





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# Abitha Sri Paramasivan

PROCESS EXPERT  
**MAERSK**

Orphaned at the age of 8, Abitha soon parted ways with her foster parents when asked to marry her maternal uncle. Her helplessness made her flee to Chennai from Eppodumvenran, Thoothukudi. Her willpower got her a college degree; while the course in Pride School got her a job with Maersk Global Service Centres (India) Pvt. Ltd.



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# Sukhpreet Singh

CHEF  
**BACK TO SOURCE**

Sukhpreet's life took a U-turn from being an electrician to a chef at the organic restaurant – Back to Source. This Ludhiana boy's move to Chandigarh Pride School landed him his dream job.



CHANDIGARH



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# Manikandan Palani

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT TRAINEE  
**ZOHO**

The unpredictability of a business like selling fish by the roadside often left Manikandan's family in debt which forced them to sell their house. Pride School groomed Manikandan's interpersonal and communication skills and fetched him a job at Zoho Corporation Pvt. Ltd.





PUNE

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## Sanjyot Unki

ENTREPRENEUR  
**FITTOXDETOX**  
- Fitness Club

From a broken family to financial dependence, Sanjyot has witnessed several hardships. Pride School honed her skills and built her confidence to achieve her goal of self-reliance. She is now running her own fitness club called Fittoxdettox.



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# Janakiraman Mohan

DIPLOMA ENGINEER TRAINEE  
**MAHINDRA RESEARCH  
VALLEY**

Born to farmer parents, Janakiraman always dreamt of a career in agriculture sector. His training with Pride School bagged him a job with Mahindra Research Valley that does pioneering research and innovation for the farm sector.





## *Giridharan Kalpanadevi*

ASSEMBLY LINE - TRAINEE  
**HYUNDAI MOBIS**

Raised by a single mother with no formal training, Giridharan resorted to selling homemade disinfectant in order to complete his schooling. With the help of Pride School, he secured a job with Hyundai Mobis. He is now able to take care of his mother's sickness and provide for his younger sister.



# Mohan Vitkar

CIRCLE HEAD, PUNE  
**EUREKA FORBES**

A man from Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra who greased machine parts for a living, Pride School helped Mohan realise his true potential. Mohan's job with Eureka Forbes Ltd. earned him the All India Best Sales Person tag taking him across the world.





CHANDIGARH

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# Roshni Verma

CREW MEMBER  
**McDONALD'S**

The daughter of a street hawker, Roshni's is a story of going against her father's decision and choosing to continue her education. Pride School loves to grab such determined youth and equip them with the right skills for building a meaningful career.







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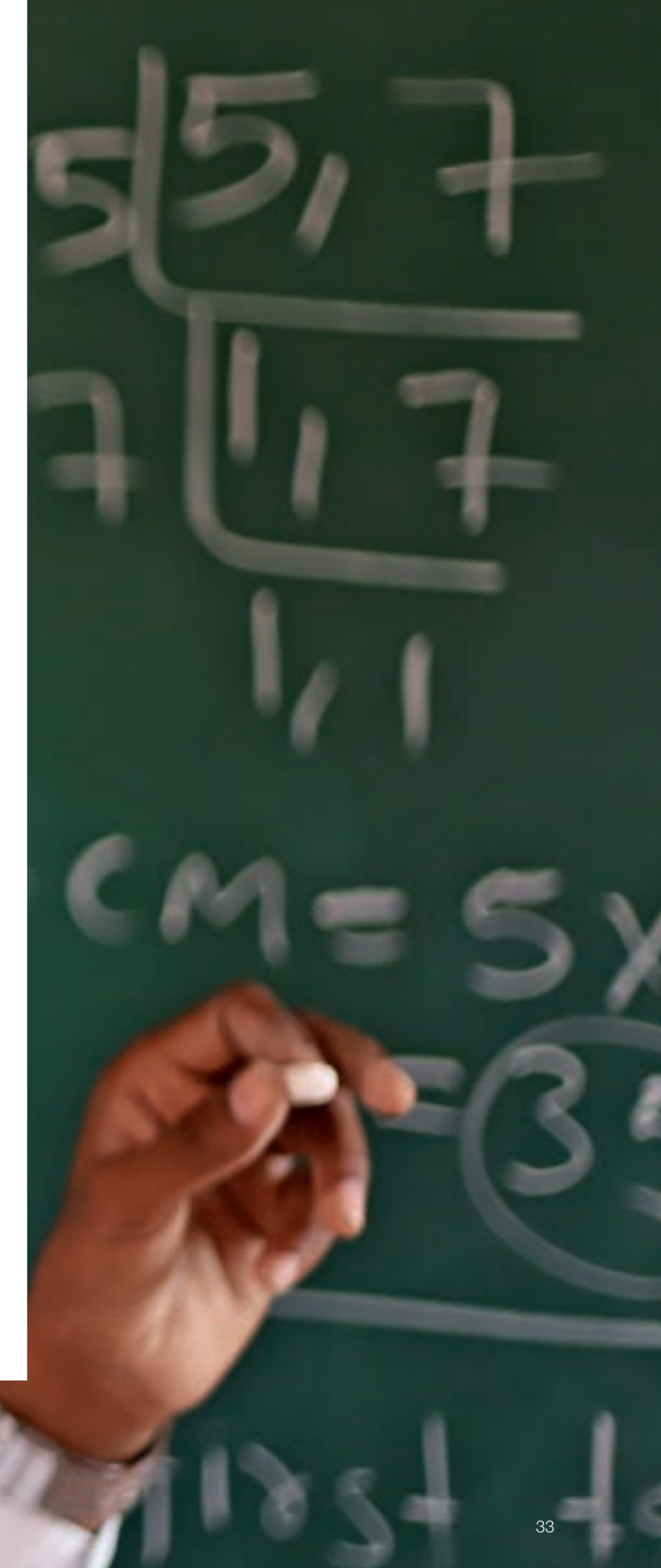
## *Arun Kumar Munugala*

MATH TEACHER  
**MB GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

As a school going lad, Arun helped his mother sell fish to earn a living. He upskilled with Pride to have a job that imparts knowledge and inspires young minds. He is now a teacher at MB Grammar School.



HYDERABAD





PATNA

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# *Avinash Kumar*

OUTLET MANAGER  
**JW MARRIOTT**

Son of a marginal farmer of Sultanganj, Bihar, Avinash studied till 12th standard which could only take him so far in life. After the abridged Hospitality course, he is now with JW Marriott.



# Sai Prasad Nandala

CONTENT REVIEWER  
**WIPRO**

Sai Prasad never believed he can overcome his stammer leave alone get a secure job. For the eldest son of a street vegetable vendor Pride School was the magic wand that transformed him to earn a job with WIPRO Ltd.



HYDERABAD



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# Poonam Baravkar

CONSTABLE  
**MUMBAI POLICE**

Poonam left no stone unturned in trying to get a job in the Police Department. When all her efforts failed, Pride School became her saviour. She is now with the Mumbai Police.



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# Tanya Wadhwa

SENIOR EXECUTIVE  
**PROJECT EVE**

Tanya's mother worked as a house help to ensure she could complete her schooling. Her faith in education stands vindicated as Tanya is well in to the fifth year in her retail sector career.





CHANDIGARH

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# Lakshman Kumar

SENIOR SALES OFFICER  
**HDFC BANK**

The transformation is complete – from attire to attitude – for Lakshman Kumar, a small farmer's son hailing from Muzaffarpur, Bihar. The job of Senior Sales Officer in HDFC Bank has not only changed his future but has also helped his family climb up the proverbial socio-economic ladder.



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# Shagufta Naaz

SALES EXECUTIVE  
**FBB**

Coming from a conservative family, Shagufta's aspirations to be financially independent were restrained. With the confidence that Pride School inculcated in Shagufta, she bagged a job with Big Bazaar, exemplifying the determination women stand for.



# Shirisha U Venkata

ASSOCIATE  
TCS

Despite a 12-member family to feed on a fruit vendor's income, Shirisha's father ensured she completed her graduation. But she could not find a job. Pride School became the space for her to get 'job-skills' which got her into Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.



HYDERABAD







CHANDIGARH

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## *Aruna Than Singh*

SUPERVISOR  
**FOREVER**

Aruna was paralysed waist down due to polio. Thanks to specialised training for the differently abled, she is now in the retail sector earning a decent salary and living as a role model with dignity.





CHANDIGARH

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# Rahul Kumar

STORE MANAGER  
**CAFÉ COFFEE DAY**

For the lad from Kharar in rural Punjab, the 90-day course in Hospitality earned him a job with Café Coffee Day. With a steady growth in his career, Rahul has been able to make his family completely debt-free.



# Sandip Kadam

SENIOR ASSOCIATE  
**WIPRO**

Even in the face of grave adversities, Sandip chose to prioritise his studies and funded his own education up to a bachelor's degree in Commerce. But it was the 'job-skills' he learned in Pride School that made him a Senior Associate at WIPRO Ltd.



PUNE



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# Parveen Garg

ENTREPRENEUR  
**GARG CONSULTANCY**

Parveen had fled from his debt-ridden farmer father and got enrolled in the financial services course in Chandigarh Pride School. Graduating with flying colours, he became a successful entrepreneur giving advisory services.





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## Sadhika Kumari

CHEF  
**PVR**

After losing both her parents in quick succession, Pride School became the guiding light for Sadhika. With specialised skills honed there, she now works as a Chef at PVR Cinemas.



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# Mahesh Nagilla

SPOC - Single Point Of Contact  
**DSM**

From dawn to dusk, Mahesh sold ice-creams and delivered food while his mother did backbreaking work in various homes as a domestic help. Mahesh has come a long way since. Today, he is able to invest in real estate and gold for his mother courtesy his job with DSM Shared Services Pvt. Ltd.





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# *Ishrat Bano*

RESTAURANT HOSTESS  
**COSTA RIVIERA HOTEL**

Despite studying hard, Ishrat could not get a job. After the hospitality course in Pride School, she got a full time job in a reputed hotel in her hometown Varanasi.





CHANDIGARH

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## Ankita Singh

FASHION CONSULTANT  
**MOTHERCARE**

Extreme poverty at home made Ankita migrate to Chandigarh from Patna. With no education or job skills, it was impossible to find a steady employment. Pride School trained her to bag a job at Mothercare Ltd.







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## *Kanmani Ramesh*

ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVE  
**DXC TECHNOLOGY**

Kanmani had a rough childhood with her father committing suicide, leaving her mother to provide for three daughters. From a tender age, Kanmani helped her mother sell flowers. With Pride School, her life transformed from living in abject poverty to working at an MNC earning a steady income.



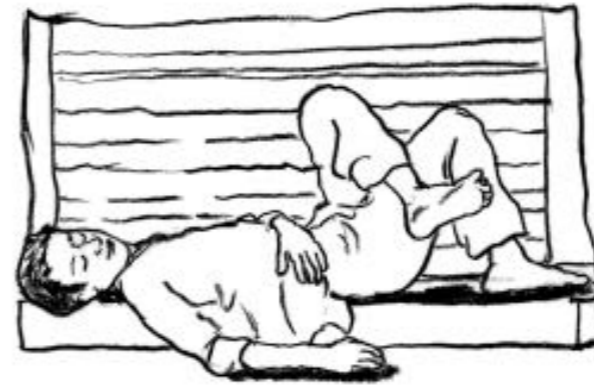


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# Aman Kumar Gupta

MEDIA MARKETING EXECUTIVE  
**JANSANDESH TIMES**

One would never imagine that Aman was once a college dropout, a victim of alcohol and substance abuse. It was the empathetic faculty of Pride School that transformed him. He now has a full-time job as Marketing Executive with Jansandesh Times, Varanasi.





PUNE

# Shirish Kamble

OWNER  
**DTDC FRANCHISE**

They say nothing is impossible with true grit and hard work and Shirish has proven it. During his time at Pride School, this humble courier delivery boy found the inspiration to dream big, and work towards it. Today he is a franchise owner of the same courier company. That's not all – he plans to have another franchise soon and is giving jobs to others.



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# Sadhna Gupta

TEAM MEMBER  
**CINÉPOLIS**

Sadhna takes pride in being able to buy a mobile phone and a scooter with her earnings. She has become the role model for boys and girls in her village in Gorakhpur. Pride is also about having the power of agency for girls.





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## Sameera Hajare

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXECUTIVE  
**CONNEQT BUSINESS  
SOLUTIONS**

Sameera was married at a young age to an abusive man. When the torture seemed never ending, she took her child and fled the marriage. A friend led her to Pride School. With a secure job she is at peace knowing she can raise her child as well as look after her mother.





# Nandini Boori

PROCESS EXECUTIVE  
**COGNIZANT**

From being a nanny in her teens to working at Cognizant – the story of Nandini's burgeoning confidence in running a family is inspiring.



HYDERABAD



SRINAGAR

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## *Ishfaq Ahmad Dar*

SENIOR BARTENDER  
**THE VILLAGE RESTAURANT**

Ishfaq of Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir was struggling to make ends meet. He enrolled with Pride School which presented him with opportunities that helped him grow. Today, he has a secure job at The Village Restaurant, Pune.



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# Aishwarya Potdar

SENIOR PROCESS EXECUTIVE  
**COGNIZANT**

Aishwarya of Udgir, Maharashtra is not one to be easily pigeonholed. Her aspirations of being financially independent came true when she landed a job with Cognizant. Successful, confident, independent – there is no stopping her now.





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# G Sai Suma

CUSTOMER CARE EXECUTIVE  
**CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE**

Suma and her sister were living on the edge with their mother's earnings of 2 USD per day. Today, she is a Procurement Specialist in Du Pont earning a salary that got the family freed from extreme poverty.



HYDERABAD



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# Jaswinder Kaur

CASHIER  
**PANTALOONS**

From the hardship of living in a one room ghetto to working as an executive at Pantaloons Fashion & Retail Ltd., the transformation of Jaswinder is a story of pride. Her sister has now followed her footsteps.



CHANDIGARH



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# Dipak Sonawane

SENIOR PROCESS LEAD  
**BANK OF NEW YORK  
MELLON**

An auto driver's son, Dipak saw his father spend his meagre income on alcohol. Prompted to work from the young age of 12, Dipak did several small jobs to complete his graduation. After the course at Pride School, he is now doing exceedingly well at Bank of New York Mellon.



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# Sukhvir Kaur

SHIFT MANAGER  
**DOMINO'S PIZZA**

Sukhvir is thrilled that she bought for her family a washing machine, a television set, and a scooter with her job earnings in Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd. This is the power of the skilling course in Pride School which transformed a polio affected girl from Kharar, Punjab.



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# Noor Mohamed

SENIOR PROCESS ASSOCIATE  
**RR DONNELLEY**

After his parents separated, it was his aunt who raised Noor. Her dedication inspired him to work and study hard. Pride School did the last lap support that got him a job at RR Donnelley.



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# Amol Bhujade

CHEF  
**CINÉPOLIS**

Amol of Wardha, Maharashtra became a farm labourer at the age of 12. Despite the daily grind, his family could not make ends meet. Amol was contemplating migration in search of odd jobs in cities when he had his tryst with Pride School. Today, he has a secure job with Cinépolis India Pvt. Ltd.





PUNE

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# *Sawan Hari Awachar*

TRANSACTION PROCESSING  
OFFICER  
**MPHASIS**

Sawan moved from Hingoli to Pune as life proved to be difficult on his father's income as a tailor. Pride School upskilled him and got him a job with Mphasis Ltd.



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# Anita Mile

TEAM MEMBER  
**SLK GLOBAL SOLUTIONS**

Anita's first job at WIPRO Ltd. where she worked for over 5 years and the subsequent job at SLK Global Solutions has helped her lighten her father's burden of providing for an eight-member family.







VARANASI

# Sunandini Bharti

SALES ASSOCIATE  
**BIG BAZAAR**

Sunandini's desire to salvage her mother from the clutches of her abusive alcoholic father pushed her to join Pride School. Today, she has a secure job with Big Bazaar and has freed her mother from suffering.



# Preeti Gupta

ASSOCIATE  
**TECH MAHINDRA**

True power of sisterhood was at display when Preeti and her six sisters decided to move out of their parents' house and make a living on their own. This decision brought Preeti to Pride School where she only soared higher. Today, she works with Tech Mahindra Ltd.



PUNE





# Prashanth Kumar

## REPRESENTATIVE PERSHING INDIA

As a child Prashanth was scared that he lost his grandmother as his family could not afford medical services. Despite more setbacks, he completed his bachelor's degree in Commerce. But it was Pride School that made him fit for a secure full-time job with Pershing India Operational Services Pvt. Ltd.



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# Santosh Kumar

WORKSHOP MANAGER  
**VAU'S AUTOMOBILES**

After the loss of his father, Santosh had to run his salon while still in high school. After joining Pride School, he managed to finish his graduation and land a job at Vau's Automobiles.





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## *Aravindhnan Ramakrishnan*

SERVICE TRAINEE-  
MAINTENANCE  
**UD TRUCKS, OSAKA**

Pride School's ability to tap into the innate talent of underprivileged youth to help them realise their fullest potential is best proven by Aravindhnan who sold milk and newspapers in his childhood. Today, he is working with UD Trucks in Osaka, Japan.



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# Muthukumar Karuppasamy

SENIOR ASSOCIATE  
**MAERSK**

Extreme poverty led Muthukumar from Thiruthangal village to join his mother at work in the matchstick making industry as a child. Muthu fled and rewrote his destiny with Pride School. He is now working with Maersk Global Service Centres (India) Pvt. Ltd.





CHANDIGARH

# Rakhi Shah

TEAM MEMBER  
**SUPER DONUTS**

Rakhi of Begusarai, Bihar moved to Chandigarh with her family. Rakhi's tryst with Pride School has helped the family double their income. She is now aiming to go up in ranks in the F&B industry.





HYDERABAD

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## Poorna Chandrika Thotasani

CLAIMS ASSOCIATE  
**UNITED HEALTH GROUP**

As a tractor mechanic, Poorna's father struggled to make ends meet. Today, Poorna is earning well, is able to contribute to her family income and spend beyond their basic needs.







HYDERABAD

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## Aravind Podugu

CLAIMS ASSOCIATE  
**UNITED HEALTH GROUP**

After his father's demise, Aravind dropped out of 9th grade to work as a goldsmith and provide for his family. His determination to be educated earned him a degree. But it was the upskilling from Pride School that got him a secure job with Legato Health Technologies.



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# Kishore Murmu

SALES ASSOCIATE  
**BIG BAZAAR**

As a child, losing each of his caretakers – father, mother, then aunt, Kishore sat at the dangerous cusp of depression. Now a Sales Associate at Big Bazaar, his new life is thanks to Pride School.



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# Balakumar Ramamoorthy

SERVICE TECHNICIAN  
**BRILLIANT TVS**

Balakumar and his family moved base from Madurai to Chennai and sold idlis and milk on a bicycle to make a living. Trained as a technician, he is now working with Brilliant TVS Agency and is able to free his family from extreme poverty.



CHENNAI





PUNE

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# Yashoda Emale

CUSTOMER SERVICE  
ASSOCIATE  
**CONNQY BUSINESS  
SOLUTIONS**

Yashoda's family sold garlands and vada pav while she roamed the streets selling utensils on a bicycle. Defying all odds, Yashoda finished her graduation and found her way to Pride School. With her secure job, she is now able to buy land and build a home.





VAFANASI

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# Akash Kumar Gupta

ASST. BRANCH MANAGER  
**CAFÉ COFFEE DAY**

Extreme poverty and the onus of having to earn as a child would have broken the spirit of anyone. However, the compassion filled faculty at Pride School made Akash a new person. Today, with his cheerful disposition, Akash never lets his customers realise the pathos he had to go through growing up.



# Saranya Ganesan

TEAM MEMBER  
**FORD MOTORS PVT. LTD.**

Saranya's life journey was paved with obstacles – born into poverty, familial disputes, and a differently abled sibling to look after. Her indomitable spirit made her fund her own education by working part-time. Currently, she provides for her brother's care, and is on the path of making her family debt-free.



CHENNAI



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# Gaurav Kumar Pandey

ASST. MANAGER, MARKETING  
**SAIL PUMPS & MOTORS**

Gaurav, a farmer's son, moved to Patna from Champaran to change a life that often had him sleeping on an empty stomach. After 90 days of training, Gaurav landed a job with a reputed company called M/S SAIL Pumps & Motors.



# Balika Manke

PROCESS ASSOCIATE  
**AGS HEALTH**

Despite an early marriage, a complicated pregnancy, and continued misery of poverty, Balika finished her graduation and joined Pride School. Today, she works as an Associate at AGS Health Pvt. Ltd. and is proud that she can share the financial responsibilities at home.



HYDERABAD





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# Mayuri Popat Shinde

CUSTOMER CARE EXECUTIVE  
**CONCENTRIX**

Mayuri lived in a 11-member joint family with her father struggling to feed all as a daily wage earner. Her move from Irle village, Solapur to Pune in order to find a better livelihood proved fruitful with Pride School's support. She now works at Concentrix as a Senior Advisor.



PUNE



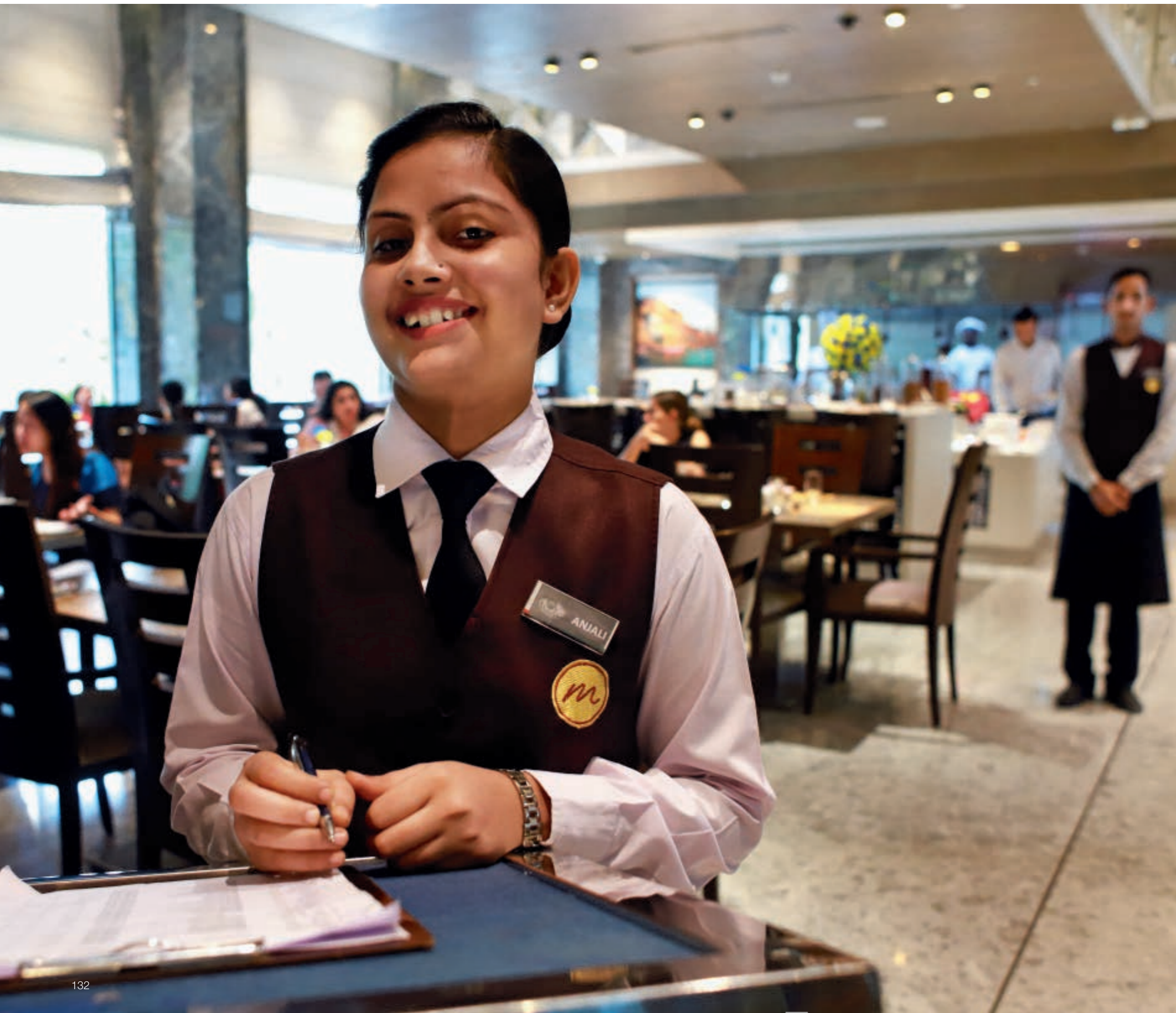
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# Naveen Kumar Alagarsamy

QUALITY ANALYST  
**GLOBAL HEALTHCARE**

Frequent illness of his mother forced Naveen of Sivaganga district to miss school often. After standing in long queues outside temples for food and washing vessels at a local hotel, he graduated from college. Pride School groomed him for his job with Global Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.





VARANASI

# Anjali Upadhyay

RESTAURANT HOSTESS  
**HOTEL MADIN**

Anjali had a very constrained life in her adopted home prompting her to make it on her own. Training at Pride School invoked a sense of confidence which helped her land a job at Hotel Madin in Varanasi.



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# Alisha Kumari

TEAM LEADER  
**MAX FASHIONS**

Alisha with her hearing-impairment had a miserable childhood growing up in a family with history of alcohol abuse. Pride School groomed and secured her a job in the retail sector that helped her put a roof over her family.



PATNA



HYDERABAD

# Rahul Kushwaha

SENIOR TECHNICAL ANALYST  
**TECH MAHINDRA**

Tragedy struck the Kushwaha family when what little they possessed was stolen. Despite harsh circumstances which made Rahul discontinue his education, he worked his way up and today, with a job at Tech Mahindra Ltd. he is able to build a house for his family – moving towards a more secure life.



# WESTSIDE



## Pankaj Soni

ASSOCIATE  
**WESTSIDE**

Born into a poor family in rural Pratapgarh, Pankaj had to migrate to the city to do odd jobs and make ends meet. Serendipity got him to Pride School where he garnered expertise in retail sales that landed him a job with the TATA Group.





HYDERABAD

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# Srinivas Kammari

ASSOCIATE  
**AMAZON**

Srinivas saw his mother work tirelessly to provide for his education. With the help of skills honed at Pride School, he managed to land a job at Amazon. Smitten by his success, he is now pursuing an MBA.



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# Rita Devi

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
EXECUTIVE  
**ORGANIC HARVEST**

Rita got married at a young age and soon had the responsibility of raising three children. With her husband's income spent on liquor, Rita knew she had to be self-reliant. Determined, she joined Pride School and currently has a full-time salaried job.







VARANASI

# Neha Kumari

SENIOR STEWARD  
**GRAPEVINE HOTEL**

With aspirations to start her own bakery business, Neha once sold garlands to make a living. Today, she works at a hotel in Varanasi and is well on her way to have enough to start her own business.





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## *Rajadurai Ravi*

SENIOR TEST ENGINEER  
**HCL**

Raised by a single mother, Ravi hails from Parvathamalai village of Tamil Nadu. He had food on his plate only on days his mother, a daily wage agricultural labourer, found work. Today, he works at HCL Technologies Ltd. He also finds time to volunteer and develop content for Mahindra Pride Classrooms.



CHENNAI

# Sameer Kumar

STORE MANAGER  
**TWISTING SCOOPS**

Sameer and his family migrated from Bihar to Chandigarh and made a living on his father's paltry pension. Seeing his father's sacrifices, he skilled himself in Pride School and now has a managerial job in the F&B sector.





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## *Ravi Kumar Maurya*

CONTINENTAL CHEF  
**GRAPEVINE HOTEL**

Labelled incompetent by his father for losing a job at a garment store, Ravi took a break and joined Pride School where he trained to be a chef. Today, Ravi is a sous chef at Hotel Grapevine.



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# Karishma Kumari

CUSTOMER CARE EXECUTIVE  
**VIBRANT INFOCOM**

Things took a bad turn for Karishma when she was married at a young age to an abusive man. Her training at Pride School helped her stand for herself. With her job at Vibrant Infocom Pvt. Ltd., she earns well to run her family.

PATNA





PUNE

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# Nilesh Jogdand

SENIOR DEPUTY MANAGER,  
SALES TRAINING  
**SAMSUNG**

Nilesh of Beed, Maharashtra juggled between odd jobs to supplement his father's meagre earnings as a farmer. A friend's advice brought Nilesh to Pride School where he realised his fullest potential. Today, he is a Deputy Manager at Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd.





PUNE

## *Kalpana Dhole*

SHIFT INCHARGE  
**McDONALD'S**

Kalpana of Kalwad village, Maharashtra was acutely aware of her family's financial hardships. Her sense of responsibility towards her family brought her to Pride School. An adequate skill set and a job at McDonald's has enabled her to buy vehicles for herself and her sister.



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