

HEMANT CHAWLA

Rohini Nilekani

Making the world flatter and fairer

WHILE HER HUSBAND NANDAN SELLS BRAND INDIA ABROAD, ROHINI, 47, IMPROVES things at the grassroots. The journalist-turned-novelist-turned-philanthropist has been spending personal money and time on causes close to her heart. Rohini's Akshara Foundation and Pratham Books seek to make education available to poor children in and around Bangalore. Another of her NGOs Arghyam (Sanskrit for "offering") works to make access to water, both equitable and sustainable, to all—its Rs 100 crore corpus is courtesy the Nilekanis alone—while Sanghamitra offers micro finance to very small entrepreneurs. Two others, CISED and ATREE, promote ecology. In between all this, the mother of two (she refused an interview), found time to write a thriller called *Stillborn*. Impressed? You bet.

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Simone Tata

India's answer to Coco Chanel

SHE GOT OUT OF THE COSMETIC BUSINESS EIGHT YEARS AGO, BUT Simone Tata will always be remembered for giving India its first chic cosmetic brand, Lakme. Seventy five years old today, Tata hasn't lost any zeal for business. "We will be doubling our turnover in two years," says the Chairman of Trent Ltd, which owns the Westside chain of departmental stores. Last year, Trent acquired Chennai-based bookstore Landmark and now has big plans in the hypermarket space, where it debuted last year with Star India Bazaar in Ahmedabad.

AHONA GHOSH



Maureen Wadia

A good word for all



REUBEN SINGH

I FIND MYSELF GIVING ADVICE ALL THE time," says Maureen Wadia. "My family, friends, doctors, patients, employees, models...everybody seems to turn to me for advice," she says jokingly. For good reason. Wife of Bombay Dyeing group Chairman Nusli Wadia, Maureen, 60, seems exceptionally talented at managing multiple businesses. She oversees the family's charitable hospital, publishes a magazine (*Gladrags*), organises model talent hunt and the Mrs India pageant every year. No wonder it was past bedtime when this magazine finally managed to catch the workaholic mother of two for a quick chat. ■

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SOUNIK KAR