

# Inspirational Women

## LEADERS IN INDIA



**DR. NAMITA JAIN**



**SNEHA RAKESH**



**MANJU YAGNIK**



**DR. TARITA SHANKAR**



**ARCHANA S. KUTE**



**NISHA KAUR UBEROI**



**SONICA ARON**



**ADV. CHANDNI KAPADIA**



**DR. RITU BHANDARI**



**BINITA SHAH**



**DR. HEMA DIVAKAR**



**DR. PRIYA SHAH**



**MONICA UBEROI**



**GULNAZ PARVEEN**



**AJITA ITALIYA**



# Dr. Priya Shah: India's no. 1 Celebrity Wedding Match Maker

**With 30 years of experience and expertise, her bureau is one of the most sought after firms due to her impressive track record of bringing the right prospects together at the right time.**

**D**r. Priya Shah's journey in the matchmaking field began unexpectedly and was inspired by her own marriage. With over 30 years of experience today, she has the knack of connecting the right people with each other.

With a degree in fashion designing, Dr. Shah switched her field as she genuinely wanted to make a difference in people's lives. Her own experience had given her insights into the multiple flaws in the process normally followed for matching prospective life partners.

Being married at just 18 years, she was caught unawares by the multiple differences that arose between her in-laws after the wedding. During this time, her husband stood by her side and the young

couple eventually decided to move out. With neither set of parents being supportive in any way, they had to fend for themselves.

A deeper reflection of the situation made Dr. Shah realise that if her parents would have followed a systematic approach, the possibility of her going through the trials as a young bride could have been either minimised or even avoided.

To guide families to prevent others from suffering what she had encountered, she founded her marriage bureau, 'Priya Shah: The Match Maker.' When starting in 1991, her primary focus was making people cognizant of the fact that matchmaking confers a responsibility and the implications can be life-changing. Venturing into unknown territory, along

with a new-born baby in an intensely competitive market was challenging. But, as each day passed, she gained confidence and overcame all obstacles ranging from those faced by entrepreneurs to those posed by competitors.

Dr. Shah credits her husband as her strongest support all through and their relationship has pulled them during the testing times of her career. She emphasises that one needs immense focus and motivation from within to become a successful entrepreneur in the matchmaking field, and one has to be prepared for absolutely no holidays or time off.

Working weekends and extended workdays were all part and parcel of this endeavour but she never gave up. Balancing multiple roles including that of being a counsellor when emotions run high, Dr. Priya Shah has also saved many marriages, which were going through turbulent phases. She also organised get-togethers where prospective brides and grooms could interface in an informal setting with their parents. She has hosted up to 100 people during some of these 'meet and greet' events. With many requests for Indian brides even from persons of Indian origin residing across the globe, Dr. Shah extended her horizons beyond borders. The United States of America witnessed her overseas debut and her success story continued there as well.

Over the past three decades, she has solidified her position as the preferred matchmaker of the upper class and the elite families. A compendium of her experiences in this field titled 'Marriages of India' was unveiled by Bollywood actor Hema Malini.

With nearly 9000 marriages from all over the world including India's top 1000 Indians in her portfolio, Dr. Shah has no plans to retire from this 'lifelong commitment' to matchmaking.

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Dr. Priya Shah's success is reiterated with awards conferred on her such as the Priyadarshini Indira Gandhi Award for 'scoring a string of outstanding achievements in a chosen field of activity' by the International Integrity,

Peace & Friendship Society; Bharat Ratna Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Excellence Award 2018, by the Association for Rising and Talented Personalities; Century Best

Match Maker Award 2015, by Global Achievers Foundation, Dubai; Ashok Stambh Award, 2014, by Lions Club of Bombay (Khernagar), Mumbai; Nari Ratna Award, 2011, by Shri Jinendra Vaibhav Sanstha; the Mother Teresa Excellence Award, for 'Outstanding services, achievements and contributions' by the International Integrity, Peace & Friendship Society and Dr. Priya Shah: The Youngest Match Maker Award from The Times of India.