

Asian
Star

Dr. Navneet Kaur Popli

Native Village/Country:

I was born and brought up in **Delhi**, the capital city of India. Growing up in such a vibrant and diverse city taught me to appreciate different cultures, value education, and respect people from all walks of life.

Your Early Education:

I completed my **Bachelor's degree from the University of Delhi**, followed by a **Master of Computer Applications (MCA)** from **Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi**. Later, I earned my **PhD from Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune**. I am also a **Professional Engineer (PEng.)** registered with **Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia (EGBC)**. Learning has always been a lifelong passion, and I continue to grow through teaching, research, and professional practice.

When & Why You Came to Canada:

My family and I came to Canada in search of better opportunities and a brighter future. We came in March 2020. Canada gave us the opportunity to build meaningful careers while raising our family in a welcoming and diverse society.

Your Career Advancement Initiatives, Volunteer Work, and Present Occupation:

I have been working in Computer Science and Software Engineering education, research, and industry since 2003. Today, I am an **Associate Teaching Professor**, Software Engineering, in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the **University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia**. Teaching has always been more than a profession for me. It is an opportunity to inspire future engineers and researchers to solve real-world problems with innovation and integrity. My research focuses on software engineering, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, distributed systems, operating systems, Internet of Things, and secure cyber-physical systems. Over the years, I have published numerous peer-

reviewed research papers, supervised graduate students, and mentored hundreds of undergraduate engineering students. Seeing my students succeed remains one of the most rewarding aspects of my career.

Community service has always been equally important. During the COVID-19 pandemic, my husband, **Harjas Singh Popli**, and I started **Fateh Care Charity**. What began with delivering groceries to families in need has grown into a registered Canadian charity and mobile food bank serving seniors, newcomers, single-parent families, people struggling with disability and individuals experiencing food insecurity throughout Greater Victoria.

COVID also brought the greatest personal loss of my life. During that difficult time, I lost my father, **Sardar Amarjeet Singh**. He believed deeply in education, honesty, humility, and relationships. He made countless sacrifices so his children could receive the best education possible and build meaningful careers. Throughout his life, he quietly helped people without expecting recognition. In his final years, he devoted himself to **sewa at the Gurdwara**, finding happiness in serving others. His life continues to inspire everything I do. To honour his legacy, I founded **FC Media House Society**, a not-for-profit society dedicated to sharing positive community stories. One of our flagship initiatives is **Impact Makers**, a podcast created in memory of my father. Through conversations with educators, healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs, volunteers, artists, and community leaders, we celebrate people who dedicate their lives to serving others and making a positive difference in society. My mother-in-law, **Mrs. Bhupinder Popli**, serves as the **Senior Advisor** of FC Media House Society. Her lifelong commitment to family values, faith, and community service continues to guide our vision.

I also serve as a **Board Member of the Victoria Women Support Association**, where I support initiatives that empower women through education,

mentorship, networking, leadership, and community engagement.

Your Regret in Life:

Losing my father during COVID without having enough time to spend with him remains my greatest regret. His passing reminded me that family and relationships are life's greatest blessings.

Pick Any One of Your Best Achievements:

My greatest achievement is seeing lives transformed. Whether it is a student graduating as an engineer, a family receiving support through Fateh Care Charity, or someone finding inspiration through Impact Makers, those moments remind me that success is measured by the positive impact we have on others.

Did You Face Discrimination?

Like many women working in engineering and technology, I have experienced challenges throughout my career. Those experiences made me stronger and motivated me to mentor more women and encourage them to pursue careers in engineering and leadership.

Are You Happy in Canada?

Yes. Canada has given my family wonderful opportunities to grow professionally and personally. At the same time, I believe we must continue addressing affordability, food insecurity, support for seniors, and newcomer integration so that everyone could succeed.

Your Take on Canada's Culture:

Canada's diversity is one of its greatest strengths. Different cultures, ideas, and experiences make our communities stronger and encourage innovation, respect, and inclusion.

What About Canada's Weather?

Coming from Delhi, adapting to Canadian winters certainly took some time. Today, I appreciate every season, especially the natural beauty of British Columbia.

What Brought You Success in Canada?

I believe my success has been built on **honesty, hard work, integrity, continuous learning, and perseverance**. I have also been fortunate to have an incredibly supportive family, wonderful colleagues, inspiring students,



and a community that believes in giving back. Success is never achieved alone. **Are You Willing to Help New Immigrants and How?**

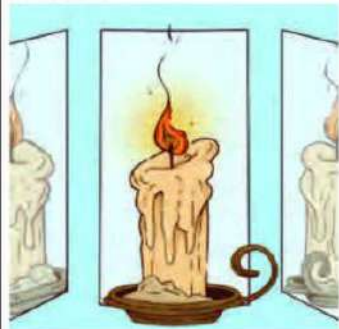
Absolutely. Having experienced the immigrant journey myself, I understand both the opportunities and the challenges that newcomers face. Through my work at the University of Victoria, Fateh Care Charity, FC Media House Society, and the Victoria Women Support Association, I enjoy mentoring newcomers, connecting them with educational opportunities, encouraging lifelong learning, and helping them build meaningful professional and community networks.

Your Message for Canadians of Asian Origin:

Never lose sight of the values that brought you here. Education, honesty, hard work, integrity, respect for others, and service to the community are values that have guided generations before us. Continue learning, continue giving back, and continue supporting one another. Success becomes truly meaningful when it creates opportunities for others and leaves a positive impact on society. Those are the values I hope future generations will continue to carry forward.

Candles and Mirrors

Rhunaz Kaur



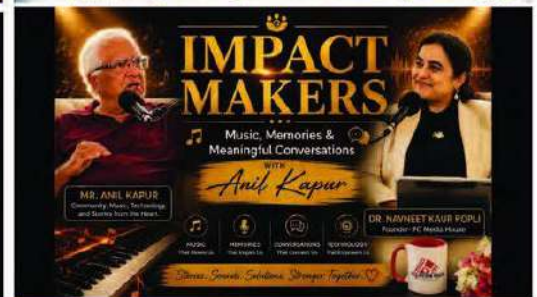
Candles shine their own light, Piercing through the darkness, Each shimmering and glistening. They do not falter, They do not jitter, Their light beams unapologetically, For everyone to see.

Mirrors watch in envy, Admiring the beauty of the light. Trying to imitate it. Despite their longing to be the same, The copy always holds mistakes— Too dull, too yellow, too soft. A mirror is not a candle.

FC Media House: Inspiring Communities Through Meaningful Conversations

Communities grow stronger when stories are shared. Every act of service, every entrepreneurial journey, every cultural tradition, and every lesson learned has the power to inspire others. With this belief, Dr. Navneet Kaur Popli founded FC Media House to create a professional media platform dedicated to celebrating community impact through authentic storytelling. Supporting this vision is Ms. Bhupinder Popli, Senior Advisor to FC Media House, whose guidance and extensive community involvement have helped shape the organization's direction. FC Media House proudly operates under the Fateh Care Group, founded by Harjas Singh Popli, whose vision has always been to build organizations that strengthen communities through service, communication, and education. FC Media House believes that every individual has a story worth telling. While headlines often focus on events, FC Media House focuses on the people behind them—their struggles, achievements, values, and the experiences that shaped their journeys. Through podcasts, community interviews, event coverage, business spotlights, and digital storytelling, the organization is creating a lasting record of the people who make our communities better. Its flagship podcast, Impact Makers, has become a platform where community leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, artists, and volunteers share their inspiring journeys. Rather than traditional interviews, each episode offers genuine conversations that educate, motivate, and encourage viewers to make a positive difference in their own communities. Guests featured on the podcast have included Saanich Mayor

Dean Murdock, who shared his perspectives on leadership, public service, and building stronger communities; renowned community leaders Gordy Dodd and Komal Dodd, who reflected on entrepreneurship, philanthropy, music, and giving back; mortgage broker Gary Nagra, who provided valuable insights into mortgages, financial planning, home ownership, refinancing, and common mortgage myths; Parminder Virk, whose journey highlighted perseverance and community leadership; Jagir Virk, who shared his experiences and commitment to serving the community; and Balbir Thara, who spoke about empowering women, strengthening communities, and the important work being carried out through the Victoria Women Support Association. FC Media House goes beyond podcasting by showcasing local businesses, charities, nonprofits, cultural organizations, and community events across Vancouver Island. As an Official Media Partner for several community organizations, it amplifies meaningful initiatives through professional photography, videography, interviews, and digital storytelling. Its mission is to celebrate community leaders, preserve inspiring stories, and inspire positive change—because every community has heroes, and every story matters.



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