

Jeyalakshmi Venkatanarayanan is the founder and proprietor of Universe Power Systems. Her educational background is in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering. She is also a qualified teacher, trained dancer, choreographer, and Carnatic singer. Her first entrepreneurial venture was the dance school 'Nruthya Kendra' that she started in 1984.

Driven by the passion to work in the area of power, she started Universe Power Systems in 1997, as a business partner of Tata Liebert. From no prior customer base, Universe grew to serve more than 2000 reputed companies in various segments like IT, healthcare, pharma, government, education, and research. Under her efficient management, Universe Power Systems has expanded its services to include 'Total Power Solutions', including end to end set up of power, automation, and precision cooling solutions for data centers and clean rooms, and green power solutions for large buildings. Universe Power System's product line includes UPS, WiFi UPS, batteries, stabilizers, inverters, transient voltage surge suppressors (TVSS), server racks, ASCO switches, transformers, CVTs, precision cooling (PAC), AHUs, and server racks.

Jeyalakshmi is also the founder of Universe Business Solutions, where she dons the role of Growth Consultant for both emerging and established entrepreneurs. The 'Smart Scaling Up' workshop series, designed by Jeyalakshmi to help small businesses rapidly scale up their enterprises, has been extremely successful, and been offered by Universe Business Solutions numerous times. She has also designed and offered several workshops on topics like business continuity and growth, and efficiently leveraging MSME schemes from the government, under the umbrella of Universe Business Solutions.

Jeyalakshmi founded and heads her own CSR initiative, Universe Art Foundation, since 2012, which helps artistes pursuing traditional Indian art forms, a largely unorganized and vulnerable sector, through financial support, performance opportunities, and mentoring.

Jeyalakshmi is currently the only independent woman business partner for VERTIV (formerly Emerson Network Power India Pvt. Ltd). She attained entrepreneurial success in an entirely male dominated field in less than 5 years. Jeyalakshmi is also actively involved in motivating youth and women to take up entrepreneurial careers.

She was awarded the Rashtriya Rattan Award on the occasion of Indira Gandhi's birthday in the year 2000 by the Global Economic Council for exceptional achievements in business. In 2009, she was selected among 10000 women entrepreneurs across the world by Goldman Sachs, and her management education at ISB was sponsored. She was awarded the First Generation Women Entrepreneur Award by Acharya Institute of Management, and was inducted as a member of their Advisory Board Council in 2011. In 2012, she received the Mother Teresa Excellence Award. In 2017, she received the Shrama Sadana Award by Abhinandana. In the same year, she also became the first woman Vice President of the Association for Information Technology (AIT) in 21 years, and a Vice President for FITDAK (the Karnataka IT Association). Under Jeyalakshmi's leadership, Universe Power Systems was selected as the emerging SME of Bangalore from 'the Talk' in 2019. She also received the Power Woman of the Year award from 'Indian Affairs', and the Social Entrepreneurship Award from eMerg in 2019.

Jeyalakshmi has been featured in numerous articles and interviews in the media, including in Times of India, Udhaya TV, Thandhi TV, Sankara TV, DQ Week, and Workshop Magazine. In 2008, Kannada Prabha, a popular Kannada daily, bestowed her with the title of 'Powerful Lady'. A book by the same title was released later that year. She was also selected among the '25 Most Influential Women' by CEO magazine in 2017, and the 'Top 10 IT Durgas' of India by Cybermedia DQ week in 2019.

Her long-term goals are to manufacture power products that are affordable to all, expand Universe Power Systems through nationwide franchises, and serve India by encouraging and mentoring women entrepreneurs and youth.

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