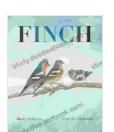
Finch Valliappa Lakshmanan: A Trailblazing Entrepreneur and Philanthropist

Finch Valliappa Lakshmanan, fondly known as "Finch," was a visionary entrepreneur and an ardent philanthropist whose contributions to the business world and society at large have left an enduring impact. Born in the humble village of Valliappa Nagar in Tamil Nadu, India, on September 25, 1934, Lakshmanan rose from modest beginnings to become a global icon, leaving behind a rich legacy that continues to inspire generations.

Early Life and Education

Lakshmanan's early life was marked by financial challenges. Despite limited resources, he exhibited an unwavering determination to succeed. After completing his primary education, he moved to Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, to pursue further studies. There, he faced hardships and setbacks but remained steadfast in his pursuit of knowledge.



Finch by Valliappa Lakshmanan

★ ★ ★ ★ 4 out of 5

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Lakshmanan's academic journey was not without obstacles. However, his resilience and perseverance paid off when he earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Loyola College, Chennai, in 1958. He went on to

complete a Chartered Accountancy course from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, further solidifying his knowledge and skills in the field.

Entrepreneurial Ventures

After graduating, Lakshmanan ventured into the business world, initially working as an accountant in various organizations. In 1968, he established his first company, Finlaysons Advertising, which quickly gained recognition for its innovative marketing strategies.

Lakshmanan's entrepreneurial spirit led him to expand his business portfolio, venturing into diverse industries such as hospitality, healthcare, and manufacturing. In 1975, he founded the Sterling Group, an automotive component manufacturing company that became one of the largest in India.

Under Lakshmanan's leadership, the Sterling Group diversified into various sectors, including construction, power generation, and information technology. The group's subsidiaries, such as Sterling Holiday Resorts and Sterling Power, became renowned for their quality services and innovative solutions.

Philanthropy and Social Impact

Beyond his business endeavors, Lakshmanan was deeply committed to philanthropy and social welfare. He believed that success carried with it an obligation to give back to society.

In 1986, Lakshmanan established the Lakshmanan College of Arts and Science (LCAS) in his hometown of Valliappa Nagar. LCAS provides

affordable and accessible higher education opportunities to students from underprivileged backgrounds.

Lakshmanan's philanthropic efforts extended to various healthcare initiatives. He played a pivotal role in establishing the Dr. Lakshmi Lakshmanan Heart and Cancer Institute in Chennai, a state-of-the-art healthcare facility that provides advanced medical services to patients from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Lakshmanan's commitment to social welfare also included supporting orphanages, geriatric care centers, and rural development programs. He believed that everyone deserved a chance to live a dignified and fulfilling life.

Awards and Recognitions

Lakshmanan's contributions to business and society were widely recognized and celebrated. He received numerous prestigious awards, including:

- Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honors (2000)
- Business Leader of the Year, by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) (2001)
- Lifetime Achievement Award, by the Madras Management Association (2007)

Legacy and Impact

Finch Valliappa Lakshmanan passed away on August 25, 2021, at the age of 86, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire generations. As an

entrepreneur, he created thriving businesses that generated employment opportunities and contributed to India's economic growth.

As a philanthropist, Lakshmanan's contributions to education and healthcare have made a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals. His unwavering belief in empowering the underprivileged and creating a more just and equitable society serves as a guiding light for future generations.

Finch Valliappa Lakshmanan's life story is a testament to the power of determination, resilience, and compassion. He rose above adversity to become a successful businessman and a beacon of hope for those in need. His legacy continues to inspire us to strive for excellence, to give back to society, and to make a positive impact on the world.



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