

Suresh Naik Named Among India's '25 Visionaries of India' for Contribution to India's \$5 Trillion Economy Ambition

Harley's Fine Baking Founder & CEO recognised on the eve of India's 80th Independence Day for entrepreneurship, job creation and his vision

CHICAGO, IL, UNITED STATES, August 17, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Suresh Naik, Founder and CEO of Harley's Fine Baking, has been recognised by Outlook India among the "25 Visionaries of India" for his contribution to India's journey towards becoming a \$5 trillion economy. Announced on the eve of India's 80th Independence Day, the recognition celebrates leaders whose entrepreneurship, innovation, institution-building and vision are contributing to the country's next phase of economic growth.



Suresh Naik creating his magic at Harley's Baking

“

If Harley's can create livelihoods in India, build an Indian brand that succeeds internationally and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs, that would be a contribution I would be proud”

Suresh Naik, Founder & CEO

For Naik, the recognition comes as Harley's enters an important phase in its journey—from a brand born during the COVID-19 pandemic to one of India's rapidly expanding premium dessert and confectionery businesses, with more than 70 stores across six major Indian markets. His larger ambition, however, extends beyond domestic expansion: to build an Indian-origin premium food brand that is recognised, respected and celebrated globally. “India has welcomed and celebrated some of the finest consumer and food brands from across the world. I believe the time has come for India to create brands that the world celebrates with the same enthusiasm. Our ambition

with Harley's is to build a globally admired brand of Indian origin.”

— Suresh Naik, Founder & CEO,
Harley's Fine Baking

A Journey Built on Resilience and Reinvention

Naik's entrepreneurial journey began much earlier than Harley's.

He lost his father at the age of 12, forcing him to confront responsibility at an unusually young age. By 16, while pursuing engineering, he had begun working to contribute to his family.

A chance encounter while looking for a part-time job led to his first role as an assistant accountant at a manufacturing company. It was there that Naik discovered a lesson that would shape his entrepreneurial worldview: significant businesses can be built around things most people barely notice.

Determined to understand business deeply, Naik subsequently secured admission to all six IIMs existing at the time and chose IIM Calcutta. His professional career later took him to Tech Mahindra, where he gained international exposure across the Middle East and Africa.

Entrepreneurship followed. He established a telecom engineering and infrastructure business in 2008 before moving into education and establishing a business school focused on developing management talent for the technology, telecom and ICT sectors.

Over the years, Naik also became actively involved in entrepreneurship development and says he has mentored more than 400 entrepreneurs.

His career reflects a philosophy he continues to advocate to young leaders:

"Exposure is the key. The more situations you handle and come out of, the more strength you build to handle bigger things in life."

From a Lockdown Experiment to 70+ Stores



Suresh Naik



Suresh Naik on the coverage of Outlook India

Harley's began unexpectedly in 2020.

With travel and professional engagements paused during the pandemic, Naik began experimenting with baking for his daughters. His curiosity led him to Medovik, the traditional layered honey cake, and eventually to developing recipes that friends, neighbours and communities began requesting repeatedly.

Demand continued even after lockdown restrictions eased.

What began inside a home gradually became Harley's Fine Baking.

Naik approached the opportunity not as a professionally trained chef, but as an entrepreneur. His focus was on combining premium ingredients and distinctive products with standardisation, scalable processes, packaging, supply-chain discipline and consistent customer experience. The result has been rapid growth. In approximately five years, Harley's has expanded to 70+ stores across six major Indian markets, supported, Naik says, largely by customer advocacy and word of mouth.

Building an Indian Brand for the World

The next chapter is international.

Naik believes India's economic rise must be accompanied by the emergence of globally admired Indian consumer brands.

For decades, Indian consumers have embraced international names across food, coffee, fashion and retail. Naik wants Harley's to help reverse that flow by demonstrating that a premium brand conceived and built in India can earn consumer affection across international markets.

From product development and packaging to store design and customer experience, Harley's is therefore being built with a global outlook.

"We want to create a brand that becomes a national pride—an Indian-origin brand that can be celebrated across different geographies."

Entrepreneurship as Nation Building

Central to Naik's philosophy is his belief that entrepreneurship is itself a powerful form of social contribution.

Businesses create jobs, livelihoods, skills, supply chains and opportunities. Having mentored hundreds of entrepreneurs and built businesses across multiple sectors, he sees enterprise creation as an important engine of inclusive economic growth.

"If you want to be a philanthropist, become an entrepreneur. When you create thousands of jobs, you create thousands of livelihoods."

Naik also places significant emphasis on dignity and belonging within Harley's workforce, particularly for frontline employees who often spend long periods away from their families. He believes that building a globally respected brand requires taking care of the people responsible for delivering its experience every day.

A Recognition—and a Responsibility

Commenting on the Outlook India recognition, Naik said:

"To be recognised among the 25 Visionaries of India as our nation celebrates 80 years of Independence is deeply humbling. India's \$5 trillion economy will ultimately be built by

entrepreneurs, employees, innovators and institutions creating opportunity at scale.”

He added:

“If Harley’s can create livelihoods in India, build an Indian brand that succeeds internationally and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs to think globally, that would be a contribution I would be immensely proud of.”

From losing his father at 12 and beginning work as a teenager to IIM Calcutta, telecom, education, mentoring entrepreneurs and ultimately Harley’s, Naik’s journey has been one of continual reinvention.

Today, his vision is focused on one defining ambition: to prove that India can not only be one of the world’s largest consumer markets—it can also be the birthplace of consumer brands the world loves.

About Harley’s Fine Baking

Harley’s Fine Baking is an Indian-origin premium dessert and confectionery brand with more than 70 stores across six major Indian markets. The company is building towards international expansion with the vision of becoming a globally admired premium food brand of Indian origin.

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