

# Story on ActNow: Mr. Naveen Satywali

- My Story on Act Now – I hope you all will read it once 😊 and like it.
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- It was a tough time for companies when Covid emanated last year and situation became very difficult and challenging for AAPNA, when the first case of covid came in Delhi, incidentally the case was near by our office & believe me AAPNA's management ACTED very fast by taking a bold step & a decision to go fully VIRTUAL. Interestingly, it has got initiated before the complete lockdown, wherein other companies were just thinking about it, we were a step ahead and already had a setup at our home to do the job. AAPNA's this ACTION not only proves how to ACT differently in a hard situation, but it also ensures their COMMANODS safety by giving everyone WFH opportunity.
- Also, there is another fact that people like me who originally do not belong to Delhi got a chance to leave Delhi before the complete lockdown and I went to my hometown safely without sticking in nationwide lockdown.
- It may be a simple act initially but in later stage we saw the severity of covid and realized we all need a company like AAPNA, who can act faster for their employees.
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- I did not get a chance to say thank you to AAPNA's Senior Management for making this decision at that time, but I sincerely wanted to say that this ACTION has saved mine & others Life.

# Story on ActNow: Mr. Piyush Dhyani

- Hey everyone,
- After seeing the inspiration filled stories shared for this month, I wanted to share mine as well and Act Now to let everyone know a piece of my piece of life.
- “It was 2016, the 5<sup>th</sup> semester of my college and I was very excited to join classes since I was closing into my later years and that would mean getting one step closer to a new beginning in life. I attended college well enough, took all the lesson with the best ability I could for my understanding and scored well in Unit Tests throughout.
- Then abruptly, during the first half of my 5<sup>th</sup> Sems, I started to notice a change, a degradation for being bluntly honest; in my Right Eye. I would start to see less and less across the black board, and I would get terrible headaches. I had to take a week off for leave to rest this pain away. This quickly turned into 2, 3, 4 and more and more weeks. I would sleep more, take eye drops, visit doctors after doctors all over Delhi. But nothing solved my issues. And in fact, it kept getting worse. My Left Eye started seeing the effects as well. And I basically had to skip the full semester as I informed my college painstakingly.
- I couldn’t bear it. Been away from it all. Not going out of home. Just resting all day at home and sleep for the most of my days. Sometimes, I would shed a few tears and let all my pain out to my mother that I can’t bear all of this. At these times, my mother would tell me “I kept you in my belly for 9-months, I gave you life and brought you all the way to here. And I’m not giving up on you. So how can you?” and my father would add “Son, your birth was the happiest thing that has happened in my life, we raised you through the toughest challenges and we will continue to do so”. So, I couldn’t do it..... I couldn’t let that love be spirited away like this. I had to try. Heal. Find more hospitals. Keep pushing it. And act as fast as possible. I just can’t let my life being wasted like this.
- Then miracle struck, a family friend suggest Shroff Eye Center in Karkardooma (Delhi). My parents rushed me there and week after week we would take rigorous time off to have the Eye fixed. Turns out, it was Inflammatory Defect, and if I was a little too late, I would risk the chance to have both my eyes lost. I contributed to all sorts of research to have it fixed. Went through all the waiting for hours and hours just for single rounds of testing and thankfully, the defect got neutered.
- I could return back to college. Tell my teachers and friends on what happened. It was a long half year of journey and I’m taking the treatment. I was thankfully able to clear my exams by taking extra classes. I worked hard to be fully cleared in exams with no backlogs in the semester and the rest is history.
- So, take my lesson. Life is tough and sometimes unforgivingly cruel. But it’s the promise of seeing another day that keeps us doing. And the Quicker you realize that the better your Quality of Life becomes. Things get better through struggle, and one must never forget that through all this, we can always rise again.”
- Thanks for reading my story. It was long, I admit. But if it can inspire someone who reads this, it will be an honor.

# Story on ACTNow: Mr. Vineet Tyagi

I have been an average student & professional throughout, but I truly believe in “TALK LESS & ACT MORE”, this is probably the reason you wouldn't see me talking much in any of the meetings or forums instead at the back of my head lot of things are always running to get implemented. Well, I have some small stories, I am not sure if those are eligible to share but still, I feel good about those.

1)Professional: In one of my previous organization, biggest issue of my 250 people account which they keep deliberating was, lots of Non compliances with respect to processes from last couple of quarters which was not acceptable being a CMMI Level 5 company. I was new in the Leadership and keep hearing Senior management planning the strategies on paper, lots of meetings, brainstorming sessions but no visible result as there was not much ACTION on the ground. I requested DU head if they can allow me give a try to get this sorted my way and luckily, I got a chance. I started working on it immediately, learnt the process first, formed a core team, drafted a plan, worked on the ground day & night with lots of different people who even I didn't know before, did many new experimental things, workshops, internal facilitations, counselling, faced criticism & failure as well and finally the day come that we reduced all the NCs by 100%. As a result of this I was rewarded by Six Sigma Green Belt & promoted to Global Project Manager (Probably the youngest GPM that time and won annual CEO award worth USD 2K).

1)Personal: In my college days, it was my dream to do something in Sports, but I never played any game seriously before and did not go well. There was a day suddenly I decided and chosen “Martial Art (Judo-Karate)”. I came out from my comfort zone, it was long 3+ years (Super-hot Summers, tough winters & Rains) every morning 5 AM attended almost all the classes and reached up to Black Belt and It was so much satisfactory for me when I won SILVER Medal in State level championship.

I am not saying I have done anything special, point here is that success starts when we ACT. The smallest of actions is so much better than the biggest of intentions. We live in an interesting world, Too much overpromise and underdeliver things. Let's not overthink and make the things complex, I know we have good intentions always. Start your ACT NOW!

# Story on ACTNow: Ms. Priyanka Gurnani

"What does living' an extraordinary life really look like?"

Well, in order to see the "extra," let's look at an ordinary life first. When I say ordinary, I mean you're in a job you don't particularly love, you're plodding along day to day, and you're just kind of existing.

An extraordinary life, on the other hand, is one you design. You live a life that you want to live, a life that's exciting and invigorating. You don't have to live a life of extraordinary wealth, though there's nothing wrong with that. But you are in charge of your life. You're doing what you want to.

I will narrate one of my instances which had made my life challenging and satisfactory to live and now I am trying my best to make it extraordinary. So, I should start with the twist that challenged me, my marriage in a small town, Aligarh and to a family, who never wanted me to go out to work due to social concern. I worked hard to convince them. I gave interviews and I got job in a Delhi based company. My boss was happy with my work, my loyalty and later provided me work from home. This also developed trust in my family towards me and today I am happily working in @AAPNA, having work life balance; and will continue to work with fervor and zest.

My following actions – "Understand yourself", "Get paid for what you love to do", "Invest in lifelong learning", "Have high expectation from life", "Be financially independent", "Deal equally well with success and failure", "Work harder" is making me do what I wanted to do.

So, I can even conclude that – "ACTION speaks louder than WORDS".

# Story on Act Now: Mr. Abhijit Roy

- ActNow Story from me
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  - **ACT NOW** – It's an interesting term, and I believe I am an "ACT NOW" person, but at the same time, I took my time to act on this story itself. Which brings me to the premise of my story. I believe that everyone is an ACT NOW person, as long as it is a task they like to do. And all of us procrastinate on things we do not like to do. This typically stems out of our fear of the task, and our ability to do it. So, when the task is big, it sounds daunting, and we don't know where to start. Therefore, there are two MANTRA's that I have figured out over a period of time: –
1. **PLAN** – One of my favourite quotes is – "Planning is HALF done". Which essentially means, a great plan, is the basic tenet of success, and ability to handle a challenge. So, when we come across a project or an activity, which seems difficult, break it down into smaller activities, and make a note of these. Put basic parameters to the task, such as how much time would each task take, and when we plan to complete it. If it is to be done by a team, then who will do the task. And that's it – you have a plan. If you are to agree with my opening quote – then the project is half complete. It's that simple.
  2. **FAIL EARLY** – couple this with **FEAR OF FAILURE** – everyone has a deep-rooted sense of fear of failure, and this stops them from taking action. Whereas, if you accept failure as a positive thing, and accept that it is part of life, then you can largely overcome the same. If you start early, you will fail early, and this could help you contain the failure. The learnings from the early failure will allow you to correct course, and so in the larger context you will end up saving time and money and have a successful project at hand.
- - Now, the two tenets mentioned above could be perceived as contradictory. So, let me sum it up by saying that – **BALANCE** is everything – so make a plan, and start early. Be ready to change the plan, proactively, and you have a **SURE SHOT** success mantra in your arsenal.
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  - I would also like to add, that the two excellent examples that of ACT NOW are – **Indranil** (my son), and **Vineet**. Both are fearless, in terms of undertaking a project, and quickly break up an activity into multiple parts and will start on the project right away. They don't worry about whether they have the ability to do the task or not, as they have the confidence that they will get the required help, as and when needed. The important thing is to **START** and **KEEP GOING**. There are many at AAPNA, who are excellent examples of ACT NOW – the two above are just the first two that jumped out at me 🙏

# Story on ACTNow: Mr. Hardik Shah

- Here is my contribution to the ACT NOW story. This real story is from history of India.
- Act Now
- This story I am sharing is from History, which also has an element of bravery and sense of timing Or Act Now. Also this will fit right into our commando approach.
- This is about Halaji (or Meramanji) and the king Jam Rawal, who established Jamnagar in Gujarat. Jam Rawal never lost any battle.
- In Vikram Samvat 1606, Jam Rawal defeated combined forces of all kings of Saurashtra and Gujrat including Sultan of Ahmedabad who supported opposition by giving 140 cannons. But, Only 4 soldiers of Jam Rawal Army went right into the enemy camp and neutralized 140 cannons and killed the 140 Cannon operator soldiers.
- After knowing that only 4 soldiers completed the, the opposition camp got very angry. Jam Rawal already had army of 1,50,000 against 2,50,000 of opposition. Opposition camp played dirty and sent a soldier with white flag to meet and kill Jam Rawal, but his brother doubted the intent and hence he met the peace messenger Karsanji instead of Jam Rawal and introduced him as Jam Rawal. Immediately, Karsanji attacked on his brother and killed him.
- Jam knew and immediately sent the Army to capture Karsanji but, by the time Rawal's army could start, Karsanji was went quite far.
- There was a young boy of 16 years name Meramanji Hala (a jadeja rajputs) was busy bathing his horse in river 'SINHAN'. Name of his horse was "Patti", a female horse. Halaji heard the noise and saw a person running away and hundreds of people shouting and running after him. He soon realized and immediately took his horse and ran after enemy soldier Karsanji. There was a great race and still some good distance was there between him and enemy. In between came river-pit some 50 feet wide, Meramanji asked his horse 'patti', that 'this is the time of test of bravery for Hala clan of Jadeja, and it is in your hand'. Patti jumped 50 feet river-pit and Meramanji Hala jadeja stood up on horse and threw his spear on Karsanji. The spear of Karsanji pierced through Karsanji's heart, his horse and went deep into the soil. This was the force of one of the greatest warriors of the century Meramanji Hala Jadeja.
- There is a famous folk song in Gujarati from this incident – "HALAJI TARA HATH VAKHANU KE PATTI TARA PAGALA VAKHANU" which is played in every Navaratri festival in Gujarat. Not many know this history about this song.

# Story on ACT Now: Ms. Rashi Gupta

- Here it is a short story on “ ACT NOW”
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- During recent times as we all know and have experienced, the world has been going through very challenging times with COVID -19 pandemic. People across the world have had to cope up with financials and emotional situations, which included jobless, loss of near and dear ones which has to a lot of emotional stress and depression.
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- It has been a wakeup call to the people that we cannot take this life for granted and we need to ensure that we spend quality time with our family / friends/ loved ones as there is no assurance of the existence of any individual . What came as a viral disease turned into one of the deadliest pandemics the world has witnessed. It is a real learning experience with respect to the physical, mental, emotional and financial well- being of the human race.
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- It is time for us to ACT NOW and ensure that we do follow certain practices which will help us to be well prepared for the situations in future.
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- **AREAS TO ACT NOW ON**
- 1. Include physical activity (like playing a game, doing yoga, running, walking) of our choice in our daily regime to ensure our physical well - being.
- 2. Spend quality time with our family/friends as we do not know as to how much time we have in our life to actually spend with our loved ones
- 3. Ensure proper rest/sleep for adequate time( 7-8 hrs in a day).
- 4. Show gratitude and be thankful to GOD for all what we have today in our life.
- 5. Stress is something which is there in everyone's life and cannot be eliminated. However we can learn to manage stress by practising meditation to control the mind.
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- Consider every situation in your life to be an opportunity - be it the workplace, home or the passion/hobby that we follow. We will live in a better world and leave behind a brighter and safer planet to our future generations.



# Story on ActNow: Ms. Deepika Soni

- Everyone focuses on “Action speaks more than words”. Good actions give strength to us and inspires good action in others. But some actions are not good or bad, they are just need of the situation. Although many situations come to our life where we could not think up what action we should take. Sometimes the actions we are doing may be right in someone’s eye and may be wrong in other’s eye. But we should follow what our inner soul tells us to do. Every action is done with some aim. The aim may be very small for a short term or may be too big that can take much time. But for every action we should think why we are doing that and how it can affect our life/others’. For the long term actions, we can plan and act accordingly, but Some situations need instant action and we do not get time to think even. Here I am sharing a couple of instances in my life where it was hard to think of taking some actions but I “ACT NOW” as per the need of situation: -
- 1)When I was a child, I was going to some relative’s house, I’ve taken the shortcut way to reach in time as I was getting late. Though it was not too busy road, no one was there when I started crossing road, but suddenly a motorbike cam there and it was in a speed. I was saved just by a very little difference but got hurt in my hands very badly. And the couple in the motorbike also got hurt when the motorbike falls. The man was hurt more than that lady. I was just scared if it has been done because of me. The lady stared blaming me for that, but I helped them to come out from there and let them sit properly in the nearby place. Then asked them to sit for a moment and I had a 500 Rupees note which my aunt asked me to give to that relative. It was hard to do anything with some other person’s money and for those peoples who are scolding me/angry upon me. But I spent some money to buy cotton, Dettol, cream, and doctor’s tape because blood was coming out from the wound of that man. As I re-visited them some other peoples arrived there, and I was scared more by thinking, the new peoples arrived there will scold me. They have done the same thing, but I helped the lady to first aid the man. I was about to cry seeing all this, but somehow managed to control my emotions and keeping aside my pain. Also helped them to reach home but the area was not so good (I was thinking not to go with them as they were strangers to me and what will happen if they do some wrong to me but helping them was also an action to do). At last, the lady Thanked me for helping and I burst out with tears. From there I went to relative’s house. But did not gave the money to them. And came back from there very soon. My mother also scolded me with anger, why had I reached late there and what I have done with that money, but later she appreciated me for helping that couple.
- 2)When I was in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of MCA, I lost my brother-in-law(jijaji). The Day it happened was the last day of my 2<sup>nd</sup> semester Examination. After Hearing this sad news, I was not in a mental condition to do anything. We got the news and after two hours I had my last exam of that semester. Though I have prepared very well for that exam. But was not able to think about my studies, future or to go for that exam. Everyone was in too much sorrow. I also not wanted to leave them in that condition. My Father was also in too much pain but, forcefully send me to college to give exam. Somehow, I reached college, and to the exam hall. Exam duration was 3 hrs. and till first one hour I had just written my name and registration number and was crying during the whole duration. I was having headache and not able to write due to weakness and Since morning I didn’t had breakfast even. Within next 1hr 40 min I completed my exam, it was 5pm when the exam gets over. Then I reached home and was trying things to help them out to overcome this great sorrow. That day it was a very difficult action for me to leave the family in that condition and go for exam. But that was the need of the situation.
- Thanks to those who really have spent time to read this. There are few more instances in my life that matches with “Act Now”. It may not be something big and inspiring, what I have done. But just shared these instances with you all and I really believe in “Well Done is Better than well Said”.



# Story on Act Now: Ms. Tamanna Arora

- This is my contribution to 'ACT NOW' campaign. This is a real story from ancient times titled
- 'Hazrat Junaid and the Injured Dog'.
- When Hazrat Junaid Baghdadi was going to Mecca on pilgrimage, he came across a poor dog that had been injured. All four of the dog's legs were severely cut and bleeding.
- The holy man picked up the poor creature in his arms to take it to a well where he could get some water to wash and dress the dog's wounds.
- He paid no attention to the fact that his clothes were being ruined by the blood from the dog's wounds.
- At the time he was passing through a stretch of desert, and it was not until he came to a small oasis that he could find a well. To his dismay, there was no rope and bucket with which he could draw up water. But he quickly collected some leaves from nearby trees, fastened them together to make a small bucket, and used his turban as a rope.
- Dropping the improvised bucket down a well, he found that the length of his turban was too short to reach the water. As he had nothing else to lengthen the rope, he quickly took off his shirt and tied it to his turban. This made the rope long enough. The holy man then drew water from the well, washed the dog's wounds and bandaged them. Carrying the dog in his arms, he struggled on until he came to a village.
- There he went to the mosque and begged the Mullah, "Please take care of this poor dog until I return this way from Mecca."
- "Have no doubts or fears, brother, for I will assuredly take the dog with me when I return."
- That night when Hazrat Junaid slept, a radiant celestial being appeared to him in a vision. Holding out in his hands in blessing over Junaid, the being said:
- "O Junaid, your pilgrimage to Mecca has already been accomplished. This is because you have shown your love for the Lord by taking pity on one of his creatures without considering your own comfort."
- "So now, O brother, it is up to you whether or not to complete your pilgrimage to Mecca."