

# COSMOPOLITAN

SRI LANKA



Rukshika Seneviratne

Sharanya Sekaram

Shana Dandeniya

# Get

that sun-kissed, been-at-the-beach-all-day glow

**Yes, girl! Bronzers are back!**

## IS THERE A METHOD TO YOUR madness?

Give your organization skills a do-over

## Up your fitness game with hot new moves

# 35

*these*

## incredible Lankan women

are all the inspo you need right now

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# From the editor

## The Future Is Female!

Growing up, I always had a picture of my ideal female icon painted in my head. She'd be smart, ambitious, determined, strong, independent, witty and adventurous — an all-round badass. I fashioned her from the heroines I read about: Nancy Drew, Georgina “George” Kirrin from *The Famous Five*, Matilda Wormwood from *Matilda*, Anne Shirley from *Anne of Green Gables*, Jo March from *Little Women*, Hermione Granger from *Harry Potter* and more. They were pretty fearless, and I aspired to be a fraction of all the qualities these characters held.

As I got older, I found many of these traits in the women I encountered. If I looked hard enough, I'd find inspiration at every turn. When I joined *Cosmo*, I knew I wanted to put together an edition dedicated to women who would be a Jo March, Anne Shirley or Hermione Granger for other young girls and women. It took a lot of blood, sweat and tears, and...

...I am delighted to introduce to you our first special edition for the year: The 35

Under 35 Issue! It is a list of 35 incredible young women, under the age of 35, who are movers and shakers in their own right in various industries, from entrepreneurs to eco-warriors to creative pioneers to activists and more. This list will put the next-gen trailblazers front and centre with the intention to celebrate these women doing their thing and inspire you to not let fear hold you back. The future is female! This edition also showcases our first trio of cover girls—Rukshika Senevirathne, Sharanya Sekeram, and Shana Dandeniya—embodying all the characteristics of our cover stars.

Right now, amidst plenty of uncertainty, inspiration may be in short supply. And, so I hope, with this edition, you will discover a renewed sense of vigour and passion to propel you forward. May their stories inspire you, push you out of comfort zones

and help you ask the difficult questions. May they encourage you to stand your ground and fight for your fellow woman and all others. Compiling this edition was no easy task. Through countless hours of shooting, directing and interviewing, we've brought you some incredible awe-inspiring stories that are certain to leave you with a little pep in your step! None of this would have been possible without my dedicated team at *Cosmo* and the folk at StoryWorks. This was truly our passion project and I hope you'll find your real-life heroine within these pages.

Stay fearless!  
Xox

Shahaam Hassanali  
Editor-in-Chief



## THIS MONTH AT COSMO



Rajith & Ricky  
had a ball of a  
time!



Our cover shoot  
was a long day,  
but it was so  
much fun!



Some of our  
ladies were a little  
disgruntled!



How many people  
does it take to  
dress a mannequin