



RUBI ARYA, 42

Day Job: Director and vice-chairman, Milestone Capital Advisors Ltd

Passion: Feng Shui

Rubi Arya's office is a beautiful, corner room in the sprawling Milestone headquarters in Mumbai's Bandra. It overlooks a green cover of tree tops, daylight streaming in, touching almost every square inch of the space. Seated within is Arya, who has infused her work environment with as much positive energy as she can garner. Faith, for her, is a precious thing. Having lost her husband Ved Prakash Arya to a freak accident in 2011, she is unabashed about her reliance on a higher power. "One has to have some trust, some faith somewhere that helps to cope with life," says Arya.

This is manifest in her

body language and in her surroundings. While her office has several pointers of her belief, the showstopper is a wooden elephant with its trunk pointing upwards—considered propitious for prosperity. It was bought nearly a decade ago by her husband. A cupboard houses a crystal lotus and tortoise, four 'Laughing Buddha' statues, a plank with sand from seven deserts and a "Pride of India" collection of twenty-five 22-carat gold-plated stamps. The lotus represents peace and purity. The tortoise signifies support, strength and longevity.

"As a promoter of a company, I need to be stress-free or I cannot inspire confidence among

my team members. I want to surround myself with positivity, and feng shui and vastu are all about balance in life." Arya's chair faces north to increase prosperity. The cabin has a painting of a waterfall to represent the element of water. A multi-hued painting of Buddha in her office gives her "inspiration at work". An inveterate traveller, Arya has visited nearly 40 countries and brought back curios and artifacts. Three pictures of her family are placed on her desk—that of her daughter, 15, son, 11, and her late husband. Arya says she is not religious and believes one can build a temple around themselves at any point of time. Her office, clearly, is hers.

Clockwise from top: Rubi Arya at her office. Next to her is a wooden elephant with its trunk pointing upwards—considered propitious for prosperity; a "Pride of India" collection of 25 22-carat gold-plated stamps; she has three pictures of her family, including that of deceased husband Ved Prakash Arya, on her desk