



# EW

ELEVATOR WORLD

INDIA

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ELEVATOR WORLD INDIA

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## STUPENDOUS SEQUEL

SLM World 2026 is set to surpass its dazzling debut and invites the VT industry worldwide to the second edition.

## TRIPLE TRIUMPH

Marking three successful chapters in 2025 FBSM will take a larger stage to raise the bar higher in 2026.

## BRAND-BUILDING

In the second part of this new content series, Arun Narang explains how the reputation of India's homegrown elevator companies grows through continuity.

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# What Redefining Means

Enabling freedom, access and equity

by Dr. Malini Saba

images by Gagandeep Kaur



Across India, be it the Tier 1 major metros or the Tier 2 and 3 cities, high rises are constantly rewriting the rules of the real estate sector. These architectural marvels, reaching for the sky with their gleaming façades and intricate designs, are enabled by their vertical-transportation (VT) and mobility systems.

Reflecting technology advancements in every industry that directly impacts our lives, these elevators, escalators and moving walks also play an important role in terms of connecting people. They make reaching out to new opportunities possible, facilitate the exchange of ideas and influence how communities grow.



Over the past few decades, I've seen how access to mobility, both horizontally and vertically, shapes lives by creating access, breaking barriers and reshaping how people live, work and learn. In my work across industries – from agriculture and fintech to hospitality and healthcare – I've seen firsthand how lack of access and mobility within a structure can limit its potential to be utilized optimally, as well as the return on investment (RoI).

Urban life illustrates the importance of efficient movement and how access to elevators in buildings influences life on a daily basis. In tall office towers or residential complexes, elevators and escalators are the simple yet essential threads that connect people vertically.



Waiting for an elevator, sharing a ride with colleagues or noticing how a busy lobby functions – all of these small moments reflect patterns of movement and efficiency in our daily lives.

I've observed that even brief elevator rides can be microcosms of human behavior. People press buttons, adjust spacing and exchange polite smiles, reflecting subtle social dynamics. In crowded lobbies, quick access to a functioning elevator makes a noticeable difference in stress levels and productivity. Smooth vertical mobility reduces friction in our lives, shaping experience and opportunity.

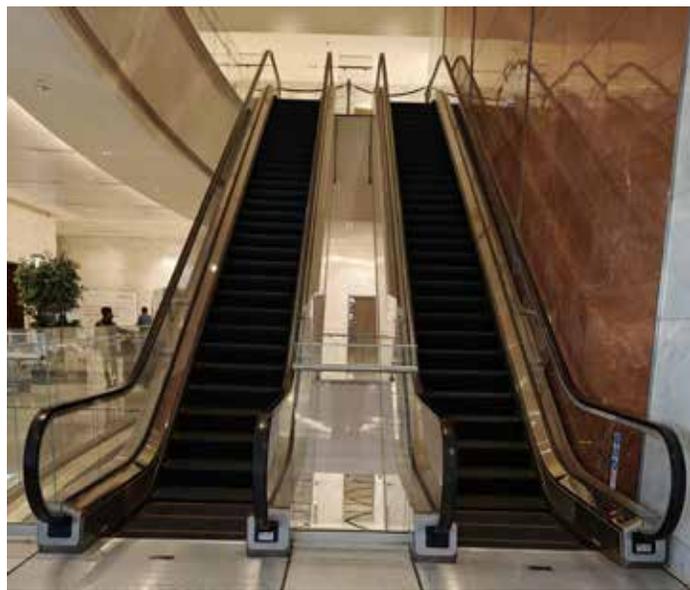
Elevators present practical challenges. Crowding, waiting





alternate floors can further enhance the overall people flow and their movement within a building. This approach is ideal because it encompasses not just the physical structures that define our skylines, but also the vibrant tapestry of human experiences and aspirations that shape our cities.

Similarly, advanced surveillance cameras, emergency-communication systems and real-time monitoring capabilities can increase the safety of passengers within elevators and the surrounding spaces. Moreover, the integration of biometric access controls and facial recognition technologies helps by adding an extra layer of security, preventing unauthorized access and enhancing the overall safety of these vertical communities.



Elevators are no longer just utilitarian devices; they have evolved into sleek, sophisticated spaces that offer a glimpse of luxury and style. From plush interiors and mood lighting to panoramic views and interactive displays, elevators now provide an immersive and memorable journey for their passengers.

Customization and personalization are crucial in catering to discerning consumer segments. These consumers appreciate products that reflect their unique tastes and preferences. In the elevator industry, this means offering customizable options such as bespoke interiors, personalized lighting and unique design elements.

Moreover, customization options available in modern elevators allow building owners and developers to tailor the experience to the unique needs and preferences of their occupants. Whether it's creating themed elevator designs that reflect the cultural heritage of the region or offering personalized services such as in-cabin entertainment or concierge assistance, the possibilities are endless.

In today's world, elevators have become a crucial part of building design and can significantly impact the overall perception of a property. This is especially true for discerning

times or confusing controls can frustrate users. VT must complement human needs, reduce barriers and expand opportunity as we look at redefining it during 2026 and beyond. VT, though seemingly mundane, has subtle impacts on daily efficiency. A delayed elevator can make a morning stressful; a well-designed one can improve flow and reduce frustration.

At its core, redefining VT is not only about moving faster; it's about enabling freedom, access and equity. The underlying principle is that smooth, thoughtful movement enhances life. Combining global innovation and local sensibilities, basically having a "Glocal" approach toward VT, is an approach that facilitates leveraging cutting-edge technologies from around the world while honoring the specific, niche requirements of those residing in and visiting India.

In addition to eco-friendly features such as energy-efficient elevators, the integration of smart technologies within elevators allows for efficient energy management, with elevators adjusting their operations based on usage patterns and occupancy levels. This not only reduces the carbon footprint of high-rise structures but also ensures a more sustainable and



environmentally responsible approach to urban development.

Strategic steps like the integration of voice-command technology within elevators make them accessible for all, regardless of age, height or literacy levels. Incorporating systems to ensure that elevators stop only on designated or



consumer segments who seek not just functionality but also style, comfort and innovation in their elevator experiences.

They want high-quality materials, elegant designs and advanced technologies. For instance, elevators with sleek touchscreens, personalized lighting and smooth, silent rides are highly sought after. These features not only enhance the user experience, but also add to the overall value and appeal of the property.

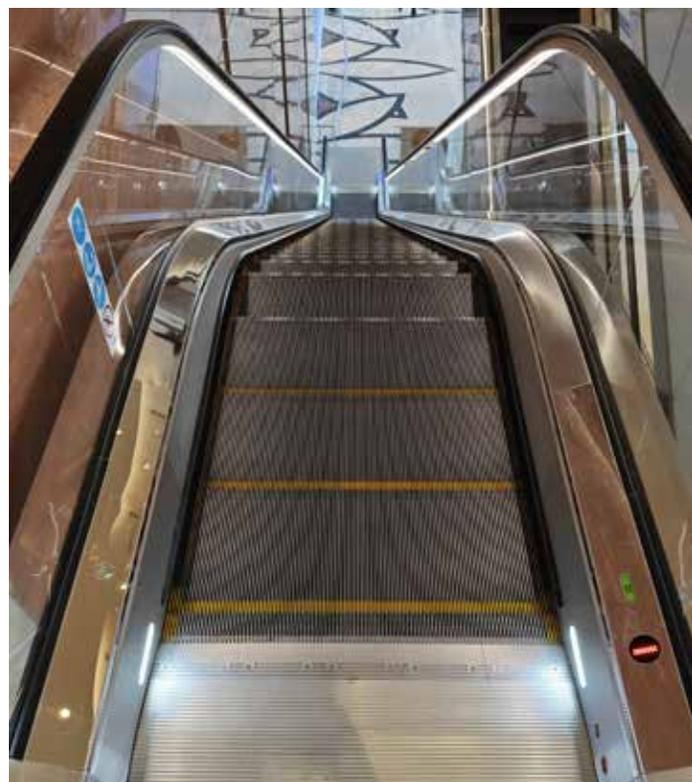
Discerning consumers are always on the lookout for the latest advancements that can enhance their experience. This includes smart elevators that can be controlled via smartphone apps, energy-efficient models that reduce environmental impact and elevators with advanced safety features.

Elevator companies are increasingly providing tailored



solutions that allow customers to choose from a variety of finishes, materials and features. This level of customization not only enhances the user experience but also allows consumers to create an elevator that perfectly matches their style and the aesthetics of their property.

At the beginning of 2026, we can already see how VT has been embodying concepts like sustainability in many different ways. Simple observations, like noticing energy-efficient lighting or seeing buildings recycle energy from elevator movement, remind one that even daily routines impact our environment. It becomes clear that advances in technology should enhance efficiency, human comfort and environmental mindfulness.



As we look at this year and beyond, it becomes clear that elevators are not just about transporting people between floors – they are bridging the gap between tradition and modernity, innovation and culture. They are not just machines; they are symbols of progress, unity and the relentless pursuit of excellence.



**Dr. Malini Saba** is a self-made businesswoman, philanthropist, psychologist, author, environmentalist, human and social rights activist, and a global advocate for women and girls. But her work goes far beyond titles. For over 32 years, she's built a career driven by purpose, not just profit, working across countries and industries.

Dr Saba has a business background in international, multicultural environments and experience with highly engineered systems, requiring a deep understanding of critical business drivers in multiple markets. She has worked across agriculture and trade, pharmaceuticals, fintech, real estate, hospitality, entertainment, and gold mining.

A lifelong researcher, Dr Saba continues to explore areas where leadership-led intervention can drive meaningful change. She's not afraid to take risks but does so with empathy and insight — qualities not often seen together in high-stakes business.

Dr Saba founded the Saba Family Foundation to help one billion people live healthier, more empowered lives — a mission she's been quietly working toward for years. Through the foundation, she has supported millions across South and Southeast Asia, Africa, South America, and the U.S., helping people access healthcare, education, nutrition, and financial stability.

Her work has led to collaborations with institutions like the Bill Clinton Foundation, Stanford Medical Centre, CRY, Concern Worldwide, the Women Refugee Commission, and the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee, to name a few.