

01 *of* 100
Baveesha
Naran



Here
to be
Authentic

More Than Skin Deep:
How Baveesha Naran Is
redefining what It means
to be unmissable.

For nearly 20 years, Baveesha Naran hid a part of herself. Not because she wanted to, but because the world wasn't always kind to people who looked different.

Diagnosed with vitiligo in her late primary school years, Baveesha watched as a small white patch on her leg gradually spread across her body. What followed wasn't just a change in her appearance, it was a journey marked by self-doubt, anxiety and depression as she navigated the stigma often associated with the condition.

"I spent almost 20 years hiding my vitiligo," she reflects. "The confidence to enter relationships was a challenge. Finding employment was difficult. Many of us avoid social situations because we're afraid of the stares, the judgement and the questions."

But somewhere along her journey, Baveesha made a life-changing decision: she would no longer allow fear to dictate how she lived.

Instead, she chose authenticity. That decision led to the founding of Love Authentic, a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting people living with vitiligo through awareness, education and community. Through support groups, photography exhibitions, cycling programmes and annual World Vitiligo Day events, she has helped hundreds of people embrace who they are, proving that acceptance begins with seeing yourself differently.

Her own transformation extended beyond advocacy. She discovered cycling not just as a sport, but as a pathway to healing, confidence and increased mental wellness.

That passion ultimately led her to one of the toughest endurance races in the world: the Absa Cape Epic. After unsuccessful attempts in 2024 and 2025, Baveesha returned in 2026 with one unwavering goal: to finish what she had started.

Living with vitiligo meant spending long days under the African sun, which came with additional challenges, requiring meticulous care and protection of her skin. Yet, she refused to let her condition become an excuse.

Over eight demanding days, she conquered 707 kilometres and 15,900 metres of climbing, crossing the finish line to become the first Indian woman to complete the Absa Cape Epic.

For Baveesha, however, the greatest victory wasn't becoming the first, it was showing others what is possible.

Today, she hopes her journey encourages women, young girls and everyone living with vitiligo to look beyond their circumstances and believe in their own potential. Her story reminds us that being unmissable isn't about standing out because of how you look, it's about standing tall because of who you are.

This Women's Month, Absa celebrates women like Baveesha Naran, women who choose courage over comfort, purpose over fear and resilience over limitation. Because the most powerful stories of impact are not about the obstacles we face, but about the lives we inspire when we refuse to let those obstacles define us.

Your circumstances do not have to define your limits. That is Baveesha's legacy on what it truly means to be unmissable.