

11th Wharton India Economic Forum 2006: 'Realizing the Indian Dream'

Wharton India Economic Forum 2006 (WIEF), the premier student-run business forum focusing on India, will take place on November 11th, 2006 at the Doubletree Hotel in Philadelphia. Established in 1996, this year marks the eleventh year of the conference and also coincides with the 125th anniversary of The Wharton School. The theme of this year's conference is 'Realizing the Indian Dream.'

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The past decade has seen India at the forefront of the global business and political landscape. Though the success has been attributed to a myriad of factors such as the country's focus on information technology, favorable economic policies, and a growing number of ambitious entrepreneurs, the common thread underlying all of these initiatives is the Indian Dream. Although the Indian Dream parallels the idea of the American Dream, we seek to further delve into what exactly constitutes India's ideal for success. WIEF 2006 will serve as the platform for thought leaders to define their perception of this dream.

WIEF 2006 has attracted some of the most prominent business leaders in the world today. A sample of the speakers for this year are:

Industry, Products and Services Mr. Rahul Bajaj, Chairman, Bajaj Auto Mr. Bharat Desai, Chairman & CEO, Syntel Mr. Adi Godrej, Chairman, Godrej Industries Limited Capt. G.R. Gopinath, Founder & MD, Air Deccan Mr. Rajat Gupta, Former Worldwide Managing Director, McKinsey & Co. Mr. Harish Manwani, President, Asia Africa, Unilever Ms. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson & MD, Biocon Ms. Madhu Nair, MD, The Leela Palaces & Resorts Mr. Rajendra Pawar, Founder & Chairman, NIIT Ms. Urvi Piramal, Chairperson, Ashok Piramal Group Mr. Keshav Prasad, MD, Applied Materials (India) Mr. Subhanu Saxena, CEO & President, Novartis UK

Private Equity, Venture Capital and Real Estate Mr. Neeraj Bharadwaj, Partner, Apex Partners Mr. Akhil Gupta, Chairman, The Blackstone Group, India Mr. Prakash Gurbaxani, CEO, TSI Ventures Mr. Shiv Khemka, Vice Chairman, SUN Group Mr. Ajit Nazre, Partner, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Mr. Rahul Patwardhan, CEO, IndiaCo Ventures (P) Ltd; GP, Duke Equity Partners

Media & Entertainment Mr. Rajat Jain, MD, The Walt Disney Company (India) Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Karan Johar, Filmmaker & Producer Mr. Ronnie Screwvala, CEO, UTV & President, Film and TV Producers Guild, India Mr. Manmohan Shetty, Chairman, Adlabs

Banking and Financial Services Mr O. P. Bhatt, Chairman, State Bank of India Mr. Gunit Chadha, CEO & MD, Deutsche Bank AG, India Mr. Rana Kapoor, Founder, MD & CEO, Yes Bank

Mr. Jerome P. Kenney, Vice Chairman, Merrill Lynch Dr. Anil K. Khandelwal, Chairman & MD, Bank of Baroda Mr. Sanjay Nayar, CEO - India & Area Head - Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Citigroup
Mr. Neeraj Swaroop, CEO, Standard Chartered Bank, India

Government and Public Policy Ms. Neelam Deo, Consul General of India, New York
Ambassador Raminder Singh Jassal, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India Shri Adarsh Kishore, Ministry of Finance, Secretary (Expenditure), Government of India Mr. Vinod Rai, Secretary, Banking Sector, Government of India Shri Rajeeva Ratna Shah, Member-Secretary, Planning Commission, Government of India Mr. Ron Somers, President, US India Business Council Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary General, United Nations Dr. Arvind Virmani, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission, Government of India

These speakers and many others will take part in the following panels related to India's economic prospects: Destination India: Entrepreneurs at Work Gateway to India: Opportunities and Challenges Government: Driving India Forward Indian Financial Services: Fortune in the Middle of the Pyramid Indian Industry: Redefining Boundaries Investing in India: A Cyclical or Secular Story? Media and Entertainment: It's Showtime!

This year's conference will engage attendees in a valuable dialogue on the promise of India's future growth and development. For those interested in participating in the Indian Dream, please join us for this event.

The WIEF 2006 conference has been generously supported by Merrill Lynch, Yes Bank, Perot Systems, Syntel, Godrej, The Leela Palaces and Resorts, Merck and Pipal Research. The official Marketing and Creative Agency is Mediasphere and the official PR Agency is IPAN.

Please visit www.whartonindia.com or email wief-press@wharton.upenn.edu for more information.

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You can also visit www.whartonindia.com for more information.