



MEET YOUR

**FINALISTS**

# Arts, Culture & Entertainment



**Asma Khan** | Chef and Founder, Darjeeling Express  
King's College London

Dr. Asma Khan, from legal academia to culinary fame, founded Darjeeling Express, starting as a home supper club. Her success led to roles as UN World Food Programme's Chef Advocate and on the Mayor of London's Business Advisory, recognition in "Chef's Table," and topping Business Insider's 2019 coolest food and drink list.

**Atul Khatri** | Comedian  
University of Manchester

Atul Khatri, a Mumbai entrepreneur turned comedian, pursued stand-up to fulfill a personal goal. Blending his engineering and management background, he humorously orders soup "one by two" solo. Celebrated among India's top 20 comedians by CNN-IBN and a 'CEOs Got Talent' winner, his Netflix special in 2019 showcased his global appeal.



**Devanshi Rungta** | Co-founder, Art Rickshaw  
Royal College of Arts

Devanshi, deeply committed to art and community, co-founded Art Rickshaw to increase art access. As Kalfest's curator, she initiated a street art movement that sparked conversations in unique spaces. Her work has been featured in institutions like the V&A and Centre Pompidou. A recent RCA graduate, she is currently researching ways to democratise the art of cultural preservation.

**Nilanjana Bhowmick** | Author & Journalist  
Birmingham City University

Nilanjana Bhowmick is an esteemed journalist and author with a career spanning over twenty years. With a Master's in International Journalism from Birmingham City University, she started at BBC World Service, contributed to TIME Magazine, and edited at Agency EFE-EPA. Her work appears in National Geographic, The Guardian, and The Washington Post. She is currently an Editor at UN Women.



# Arts, Culture & Entertainment

**Tanya Paul** | Art Director & Creative Designer  
Birmingham City University

Tanya, a globally acclaimed Creative Designer, holds the prestigious title of No.1 Art Director by Cannes Lions. Tanya has shaped brands like Google Pay, Uber, and Twitter with her creative prowess over nine years. Her work, celebrated by CANNES, D&AD, and others, earned her a National Award for Creative Arts. Now in Toronto, she impresses clients like CIBC and LYFT with her innovative strategies.



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**Vishal Ramakrishnan** | Music Composer & Producer  
London College of Music, University of West London



Vishal Ramakrishnan, an alum of with nearly a decade of experience in music, co-founded Round, blending roles from film composing to advising music tech startups. Under his guidance, Round, leveraging proprietary technology, has become a global ally for artists, brands, and entertainment firms, bridging the gap between creativity and business in less than four years.

# Business & Entrepreneurship



**Eshita Kabra** | Founder & CEO, By Rotation  
Bayes Business School

Eshita Kabra, after witnessing textile waste impacts in Rajasthan, founded award winning app By Rotation in October 2019. As CEO, she's made it the largest shared wardrobe app in the UK and US, aiming to revolutionise fashion consumption. By Rotation fosters a community for sharing, monetising, and consciously consuming fashion, striving for sustainability.

**Harish R. Bhat** | Brand Custodian, Tata Sons  
University of Leeds

Harish Bhat, with 36 years at Tata, has held pivotal roles including Brand Custodian at Tata Sons, MD of Tata Global Beverages, and COO of Titan's Watches and Jewellery. Recognised by Forbes as a top CMO in 2022 and 2023, he's a passionate marketer and bestselling author of six books, also known for his columns and poetry.



**Mirra Sondhi** | MD, Deutsche Bank  
University of Leeds



Mirra, with 16 years in technology risk, is a Managing Director at Deutsche Bank and studied engineering in the UK. Overcoming challenges, she's earned accolades and is on TheCityUK's Next Generation Leadership Council. Recognised by Financial Times for her leadership and influence, she advocates for diversity, speaking at the UK Parliament on Women in Technology.

**Neha Chauhan** | Founder, Aviotron Aerospace (AeroBay)  
Cranfield University

Neha is an entrepreneur revolutionising education with Experiential Learning and a background in Aerospace Thermal Power Propulsion, including NASA projects. She's a Shark Tank India contestant, a British U.K Alumni awardee in 2020, and represented India at TiE Global Summit, Dubai Expo 2021. She received the Best Startup of the Year award with a \$10,000 grant in 2019, and is empowering thousands of women and underprivileged kids through Aviotron Aerospace.



# Business & Entrepreneurship

**Shefali Jhalani** | Founder, Sharisa  
Brunel University

Shefali Jhalani, founder of Sharisa, a skincare-infused makeup brand, defies norms and redefines beauty. Beyond leading a clean beauty revolution, she's a roller-skating record holder in the Limca Book of Records. Her dual achievements in beauty and sports highlight her innovative spirit and commitment to celebrating individuality.



**Suchin Bajaj** | Founder & Director, Ujala Cygnus Hospitals  
King's College London



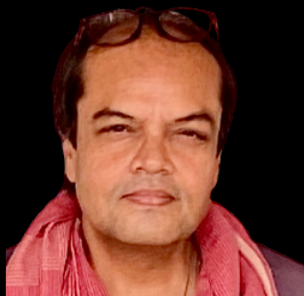
Dr. Shuchin Bajaj, an accomplished medical professional and Founder Director of Ujala Cygnus Hospitals, operates twenty hospitals across Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana. With 2000+ beds and 3000+ employees, his vision is to bring super speciality and emergency healthcare to India's district towns lacking such facilities.

**Yash Prakash** | Co-founder, AcadAlly  
University of Southampton

Yash Prakash, co-founder of AcadAlly, leverages data analytics for customized learning experiences by analyzing student patterns and addressing educational gaps. With degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Business Administration, he was named in the "BW BusinessWorld Disrupt List of Young Achievers 30 under 30" in November 2023, honouring top Indian entrepreneurs.



# Government & Politics



**Anshul Avijit** | National Spokesperson, Indian National Congress  
University of Cambridge

Dr. Anshul Avijit, the national spokesperson for the Indian National Congress, is a prominent figure in political discourse, engaging in press conferences and debates in Hindi and English. Educated in Delhi, London, and Cambridge, he holds a doctoral degree from King's College, Cambridge, and has a background in journalism and scholarly writing across diverse subjects.

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**Lt Cdr Bidisha Pandey** | Military Veteran, Director - Trade, Austrade  
University College London

After retiring from the Indian Navy in July 2021, Lt Cdr Bidisha Pandey pursued an MSc in Prosperity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship at University College London as a Commonwealth Scholar. Now with the Australian Trade and Investment Commission, she facilitates bilateral trade between India and Australia, leading in Aerospace, Advanced Manufacturing, and Space sectors.



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**Conrad Sangma** | Chief Minister, Meghalaya  
Imperial College London



Conrad Sangma is the 12th and current Chief Minister of Meghalaya, India, assuming office in 2018. A member of the National People's Party, he comes from a political lineage. Conrad served as a Member of Parliament from Tura (2016–2018). Notably, he received the Best Project Award at the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022 for Meghalaya Enterprise Architect, showcasing his commitment to technological advancements.

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**Jaya Bhagat** | Principal Accountant General, CAG India  
London School of Economics and Political Science

Jaya Bhagat, a senior civil servant in India has spearheaded anti-corruption probes in public health and municipal sectors. She initiated a peer-to-peer knowledge exchange among governments across 28 countries. Through the 'Pension at your Doorstep' program, she employed digital solutions, aiding 28,000 seniors to resolve pension issues from home.



# Government & Politics

**Jayesh Ranjan** | Principal Secretary - Industries & Commerce & IT, Government of Telangana  
London School of Economics and Political Science

As a seasoned civil servant, Jayesh Ranjan's role includes policy development, investment attraction, and leveraging technology for governance and citizen empowerment. Under his leadership, Telangana has become a prime investment hub, especially in IT, life sciences, defense, aerospace, textiles, and food processing sectors.



**Prachetas Bhatnagar** | Head of Strategy & Ops, Policy & Politics, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, London  
London School of Economics and Political Science

Prachetas advises global government leaders on strategy and policy. Formerly at McKinsey & Company and UNICEF India, he holds an LSE Masters in Public Policy. The Times of India featured him in their 2023 Inspirational News Journeys. Additionally, he was a National Level Swimmer in India.



**Siddharth Sinha** | Geospatial & Climate Policy Lead, Google  
London School of Economics and Political Science

Siddharth heads Geospatial and Climate Policy at Google in India, having advised India's G20 Sherpa and facilitated African Union's engagement with the G20. Formerly, he served as OSD to the CEO of NITI Aayog and represented India at OECD-ITF. He was selected for Yale's 2024 Emerging Climate Leader's Fellowship. Additionally, he founded Uddeshya, an Indian NGO empowering youth.



**Uma Mahadevan** | Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka  
University of Oxford

Uma Mahadevan, a seasoned Indian civil servant with three decades of experience, specialises in rural development, women and child welfare, disability rights, skill development, planning, and agriculture. Notably, she contributed as a Member of the ECCE Task Force and is an avid writer on developmental topics.



# Law



**Akhil Ennamsetty** | Fellow - Clinton Global Initiative, Advocate,  
High Court for the State of Telangana  
University of Edinburgh

During his postgraduate studies at the University of Edinburgh, Akhil Ennamsetty emerged as a passionate advocate for social justice. Elected to the NUS UK & Scotland in 2019, he represented international students amid critical times. A Clinton Global Initiative University Fellow, Akhil founded the 'Centre for Rights Activism' and now practices law at the Telangana High Court, focusing on criminal defence, constitution, and human rights.

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**Karuna Nundy** | Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India  
University of Cambridge

Karuna Nundy, an Advocate at the Supreme Court of India and an international legal expert, collaborates with governments on constitutional and legal drafting. Time Magazine recognized her among the 100 most influential people globally in 2022-2023. BBC termed her a 'leading lawyer', while the New York Times hailed her as a 'leading civil liberties lawyer' for her work on free expression.



**Pranay Lekhi** | Associate - International Arbitration team,  
Allen & Overy LLP  
University of Cambridge

Pranay Lekhi, a dual-qualified lawyer in India and England/Wales, practices public international law and international arbitration at Allen & Overy, London. Specialising in inter-State cases and international arbitrations, he earned his LLM in international law from the University of Cambridge, receiving the Senior Harris Scholarship from Downing College.

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**Raveena Kumari Sethia** | Senior Associate, Shardul  
Amarchand Mangaldas & Co  
University of Cambridge

Raveena K Sethia (or Lalit) is a Senior Associate in the competition law practice at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. She advises on Indian antitrust law, mergers, and enforcement. She is a visiting faculty at Jindal Global Law School. She also promotes women in law through Her Forum and has co-founded the AVSRAK Foundation. Raveena, a silver medalist from Jindal Global Law School in 2017, pursued her LLM as a Justice Pratibha M Singh and Trust Scholar at the University of Cambridge in 2017-18.





# Law

**Samridhi Arora** | Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court of India; Member, UNESCO-IFAP (WGIA)  
University of Oxford

Samridhi Arora, a seasoned Advocate at the Supreme Court of India, serves as a member of UNESCO-IFAP (WGIA) and chairs the AI4IA Conference. Committed to making justice accessible, she earned a post-graduation degree from the University of Oxford and pursued Executive Education at Harvard Kennedy School, focusing on public policy. She has championed landmark judgments benefiting the underprivileged and disabled.



**Siddharth Suresh Chandrashekhar** | Advocate and Legal Counsel, MHADA  
Queen Mary University of London

Siddharth Chandrashekhar, an Indian qualified lawyer, holds an LL.M. from London, UK. He advises startups on corporate documentation, litigation, and Alternative Dispute Resolution. Additionally, he represents various Indian government agencies including DRI, CBIC, CBDT, MHADA, and BMC. He is also known for his advocacy in Animal Rights.

# Media & Journalism



**Kunal Purohit** | Independent Journalist & Filmmaker  
School of Oriental and African Studies

Kunal Purohit, a distinguished journalist, documentary filmmaker, and podcast creator, has spent over two decades delving into issues concerning development, politics, inequality, and the surge of Hindu nationalism. Honored with prestigious accolades including the Ramnath Goenka Award and the UNFPA-Laadli Media Award, he holds an MSc in Development Studies from SOAS, London, as a Felix Scholar.

**Mehar Kaur Sindhu** | Founder & CEO, MSB Vision  
Imperial College London

With over 8 years of corporate experience spanning KPMG, EY, and various startups, Mehar specialises in strategy. As a Chartered Accountant with an MBA from Imperial College London, Mehar leads MSB Vision, focusing on empowering career growth. Her expertise has earned recognition on prestigious platforms like BBC, TEDx, and Times of India, reflecting her commitment to facilitating individual career advancement.



**Nisha Narayanan** | Veteran Broadcast Media Journalist  
Cardiff University

Nisha Narayanan, a seasoned media professional with over 26 years in Broadcast Media, holds accolades spanning from Chevening Scholarship to the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival award. As COO of Red FM & Magic FM, she spearheads innovative initiatives like Red Live and Red Podcasts, expanding Red FM's reach significantly.

**Puja Changoiwala** | Journalist and Author  
University of Westminster

Puja, an award-winning journalist and author of three acclaimed books, delves into narratives illuminating marginalised lives—from Mumbai's sewer divers to Odisha's water-starved villages and Kashmir's 'Internet Express' trains. Recognised as a 'storyteller of history', her work in esteemed global publications has sparked conversations, earned numerous awards, and catalysed change.



# Media & Journalism

**Saptarshi Basak** | Reporter and Editor - Opinions, The Quint  
London School of Economics and Political Science

Saptarshi Basak, a reporter and Opinions editor at The Quint, provided comprehensive coverage of the 2023 Manipur violence and delves into international issues. He holds master's degrees from the London School of Economics and Peking University, showcasing a diverse academic background complementing his journalistic expertise.



**Shrenik N Rao** | Editor-in-Chief, Madras Courier  
London School of Economics and Political Science

Shrenik Rao, Editor-in-Chief of the revitalized Madras Courier, a 236-year-old newspaper turned award-winning digital publication, is an alumnus of the London School of Economics and a 2016 Fellow at the University of Oxford's Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. A dedicated environmentalist, he cycled extensively across India, including Khardung-la, the world's highest motorable road.



**Sonia Singh** | Journalist, Senior TV Anchor, Author & Editor  
Cardiff University

Sonia Singh has been a journalist, senior television anchor, author & Editor of India's most respected news network, NDTV. In the last 3 decades, she has interviewed Prime Ministers, former Presidents, Nobel Laureates, and senior government ministers across political parties. She anchors the marquee interview show, 'The NDTV Dialogues', which brings together thought leaders in different fields for a conversation on Indian and global contemporary challenges.



# Society & Policy

**Aashraya Seth** | Social Innovator  
University of Cambridge



Aashraya, an acclaimed social innovator, created India's most affordable biodegradable sanitary pad vending machine. Founder of initiatives like STEMinism and Alvida Patriarchy, his projects, including Menstrual Hygiene Friendly Spaces, serve as models for MENA and ASEM countries. He leads development projects for British, Indian, and Australian governments, and ranks among India's top 80 social innovators and the world's top 50 emerging policy leaders.

**Prof Abhishek Mishra** | Former Politician  
University of Cambridge

A man of actions and intellect, Prof Abhishek Mishra has been in the public life because of his exemplary work in politics and social welfare. A socialist leader, former cabinet minister, socialist thinker, policy scholar, and strategist- Abhishek Mishra is a name that stands for credibility and integrity. A resident of Lucknow, his significant education was completed in Lucknow.



**Charan Kanwal Singh Sekhon** | Founder, SEVA Trust UK  
Cranfield University



Charan Sekhon MBE, a distinguished philanthropist, boasts 25 years of expertise in education, environment, project management, public relations, health, wellbeing, and yoga. As Senior Environment Officer for the Environment Agency (DEFRA), he spearheads numerous environmental and Equality & Diversity initiatives. Founder Chairman of SEVA Trust UK, and a dedicated local Councillor for over two decades, he actively supports youth, charity, and sports projects, leading fundraising campaigns and charity races, including the London Marathon, to raise substantial funds.

**Devika Malik** | Para - Athlete, Co-Founder - Wheeling  
Happiness Foundation  
University of Cambridge

Born with hemiplegia, Devika excelled to be an accomplished para-athlete, setting two new national records at the Asian Para Games. She's a psychological counselor, an international disability inclusion advocate, and a member of the Commonwealth Children & Youth Disability Network. Co-founder of Wheeling Happiness Foundation, she empowers financially underserved individuals with disabilities. Devika has received many accolades including the Queen's Young Leaders Award, National Youth Award India, and Forbes Under 30 recognition.



# Society & Policy

**Elsa Marie DSilva** | President, Red Dot Foundation Global  
University of Oxford

Elsa Marie DSilva is the Founder of Red Dot Foundation (India) and President of Red Dot Foundation Global (USA). She pioneered Safecity, a platform that crowdsources experiences of sexual violence worldwide. Safecity, launched in 2012, is the largest crowd map on the issue in India and beyond. ElsaMarie co-founded the Brave Movement to end global childhood sexual abuse and Beyond Black, an art-driven social enterprise.



**Gaurav Dwivedi** | Advisor to the Chhattisgarh Government  
Cardiff University



Gaurav, a seasoned public policy and branding communication expert, and journalist, has contributions featured in BBC and The Print. As Advisor to the Chhattisgarh Government, he crafted the state's film policy, transforming it into a prominent film destination. Formerly, he represented Uttar Pradesh at Cannes and IIFA Madrid and served as Vice Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Film Development Council in 2015.

**Kushal Kandhar** | Global Pride Director, BCG  
University of Reading

Kushal is a distinguished researcher, author, speaker, and LGBTQ+ diversity advocate, recognized for his groundbreaking work. As the Global Pride@BCG Director at Boston Consulting Group, he spearheads LGBTQ+ diversity initiatives. A prolific writer and translator across multiple languages, Kushal focuses on representing LGBTQ+ themes, enriching literature and discourse.



**Vaibhav Sonone** | Development Practitioner  
University of Leeds



Vaibhav, a development practitioner and public speaker, hails from a marginalised community in rural Maharashtra. With over 8 years of experience in the Central Tribal Region, his efforts in Dhamanpani village, Mandla district, Madhya Pradesh, fostered self-sustainability and comprehensive development. He focuses his research on climate change, adaptation, indigenous communities, livelihood, and gender issues.

# Sports



**Anuj Kichlu** | Director & CEO, Best Of You Sports  
Loughborough University

Anuj Kichlu leads Best Of You Sports (India & South Asia), a Spanish-based sports agency with global reach, specializing in player management for 14 years. He's a member of FAWG (FIFA Agents Working Group) and holds board positions at Calcutta Cricket & Football Club and Tollygunge Inter Club Swimming Committee. Additionally, he's slated to join St. Xavier's College as a Guest Faculty in their new Sports Module starting July 2024.

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**Nasser Aga Hussain** | Former Captain, Indian Rugby Team  
University of Northumbria

Former Indian Rugby team Captain, Nasser Aga Hussain, now drives Rugby's growth in India. A dynamic leader, he fosters excellence through discipline and teamwork. His Sport Management MSc equips him to navigate India's competitive sports market. Representing India internationally instilled professionalism and time management. Outside work, he enjoys adventure, travel, and networking.



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**Neeraj Chopra** | Reigning Olympic and World Champion,  
Men's Javelin Throw  
Loughborough University



Neeraj Chopra is the reigning Olympic, world and Asian Games champion in men's javelin throw. He is also a former Commonwealth Games and Diamond League winner. From the Arjuna Award in 2018 to the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2021, and the prestigious Padma Shri in 2022, he has been consistently honoured for his contributions to Indian athletics. He is also recognised as The Times of India TOISA Sportsman of the Year in 2021.

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**Smit Singh** | International Winner, Skeet Shooting  
University of Oxford

Smit Singh, a member of the Indian National Shooting Team, doubles as the President of the All India Professionals' Congress in Punjab. With seven international medals in Skeet shooting, he matched the World Record and held India's National Record for over six years. He advises Punjab's government on public policy and is an Associate at the Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development. Smit received the esteemed Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award from the Punjab Government in 2019.



# Education, Science & Innovation



**Jeemon Panniyammakal** | Public Health Expert  
University of Glasgow

Dr. Jeemon Panniyammakal, a public health expert, combats cardiovascular disease in low-resource areas through epidemiological and policy research in India. Holding grants from prestigious international bodies like the Wellcome Trust and NIH, his work, with over 150,000 citations, significantly impacts chronic condition management.

**Nausheen Basha** | Engineer and Research Associate  
City, University of London

At 31, Nausheen, a Chartered Engineer and Research Associate at Imperial College London, specialises in computational fluid dynamics and machine learning. Recognized as one of the Top 50 Women in Engineering, her work on air compressors was crucial during India's COVID-19 crisis.



**Raghu Ram Pillarisetti** | Specialist in Breast Cancer Treatment  
Royal College of Surgeons

Dr. Raghu Ram Pillarisetti revolutionised breast cancer care in India, founding South Asia's first comprehensive Breast Health Centre and a charity for national awareness. He led South Asia's largest population-based screening program now expanding nationally across India. He also founded the Association of Breast Surgeons of India and was the driving force behind the formation the Association of Breast Surgeons of India.

**Sreenivasa Rao Kondapally Seshasai** | Cardiologist  
University of Cambridge

Dr. Kondapally, a leading Cardiologist and Head of Cardiology Education at St. George's Hospital, London, trained in India and the UK, and completed his MPhil & PhD at Cambridge with Commonwealth and Gates scholarships. His impactful research prompted significant advances in cardiology. He serves as Deputy National Audit Lead for the British Cardiovascular Intervention Society, a British Cardiovascular Society Emerging Leader, and an NHS Clinical Entrepreneur.



# Education, Science & Innovation

**Srikanth Ramaswamy** | Professor, Newcastle University  
University of Strathclyde

Dr. Ramaswamy, a Chevening Scholar alumnus, is a Professor of Computational Neuroscience at Newcastle University. He holds Marie Curie and Lister Institute Prize Fellowships, and is a Fulbright Visiting Professor at MIT. He leads Newcastle's Neural Circuits Laboratory, pioneering research integrating neuromodulatory principles into AI architecture design via experiments and computational models.



**Tanaya Narendra** | Sexual Health Educator & Embryologist  
University of Oxford



Dr. Tanaya, a University of Oxford graduate, pioneered medical content creation in India with her acclaimed initiative, Dr Cuterus. Addressing sexual, reproductive, and menstrual health, she leads India's largest medical education platform, complemented by a bestselling book and acclaimed podcast. Her mission reshapes sex education, aiming for a healthier, stigma-free society.

## Best Student Society



The Heriot-Watt Indian Society celebrates India's diverse culture, offering members opportunities to engage in festivals like Diwali and Holi, Indian classical dances, Bollywood restagings, music sessions, and culinary explorations. It welcomes students of Indian descent and those curious about Indian culture, fostering connections, heritage appreciation, and enjoyable experiences.



The UEL Indian Society, among the largest at UEL, welcomes all students irrespective of cultural background. Committed to enriching the UEL experience, they organize diverse events including social gatherings, sports tournaments, charity drives, cultural fairs, and educational trips. They aim to celebrate Indian culture, foster cultural exchange, and create a vibrant community for all interested individuals.



Warwick India Forum aims to raise awareness about India and provide a platform to address its socio-economic, political, cultural, and environmental issues. Hosting events year-round, including debates and social gatherings, they've featured renowned speakers like Shashi Tharoor and Kiran Bedi. Committed to enhancing India's global image, they aspire to become Europe's premier Indian conference.