



**51<sup>st</sup> National Management Convention**  
**“India’s ascent: Navigating global uncertainty”**  
**11 – 12 September 2024: Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi**

**CONVENTION AGENDA**

**Day 1: Wednesday, 11 September 2024**

**0830 – 0945 hrs**      **Registration and Networking Tea/Coffee**  
**0945 hrs**              **All to be seated inside Durbar Hall for the programme starting at 1000 hrs**

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**1000 – 1040 hrs**  
**Plenary Session 1**

**Rush hour for Indian economy: Accelerating India’s industrial and digital transformation**

*Indian economy is gaining growth momentum and it is set to become the world’s third-largest economy by 2030. It has recovered strongly from the covid lockdowns and coped well with disruptions, wars and inflation. The government’s ability to tax is allowing it to fund investment and induce consumption. Corporate sector’s bulging balance sheets are prompting private investments in new capacities and technologies. India’s opportune position in the current geopolitics and its gainful handling of the situation has set it up for an era of super growth. However, the changing technologies, trade flows, and geopolitics require India’s industrial and digital sectors to become more scalable, innovative and resilient. India must find ways to create a policy, regulatory and business environment to maximize manufacturing, digitalization, and exports.*

- *How can India ensure that it makes most out of the given opportunities in the changing world?*
- *How can India navigate the new geopolitical and climatic barriers to trade, technology and investment?*
- *What kind of trade-off can India make to achieve free trade agreements with the world’s richest economies?*

**Lighting of the Lamp**

**Introductory Remarks**      **Rekha Sethi**  
Director General  
All India Management Association

**Welcome Address**      **Nikhil Sawhney**  
President, AIMA and  
Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Triveni Turbine Ltd

**Address**                      **Sanjay Kirloskar**  
Past President, AIMA and  
Chairman & Managing Director, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd.

**To join on stage**          **Suneeta Reddy**  
*Senior Vice President, AIMA &  
Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd*  
*and*  
**T V Narendran**  
*Vice President, AIMA and  
CEO & Managing Director, Tata Steel Ltd*

**Release of Convention Souvenir**

## Presentation of Awards

### - AIMA - Kewal Nohria Award for Academic Leadership in Management Education 2024

Presented to Prof. **Umakant Dash**

Director, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA)

Citation read by **Sanjay Kirloskar**

Past President, AIMA and Chairman & Managing Director, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd.

### - AIMA - R K Swamy High Performance Brand Award 2024

Presented to **Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd**

Received by **Kapil Ahuja**, Business Head & CEO, North Region, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd

Introduction of the Award Winner by **Srinivasan K Swamy**

Chairman & Managing Director, R K Swamy Limited

### - AIMA Best LMA Awards 2023-24

## Concluding Remarks **Sudhir Jalan**

Past President, AIMA &

Chairman, Neo Foods Pvt Ltd

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1050 – 1145 hrs

## Plenary Session 2

### **Pinging transformation: Powering Indian economy with communication**

*In an increasingly information-driven world, Indian economy's reliance on massive, fast and assured communication is growing. India's digital transformation of governance, industry, human capital and democracy depends on its ability to apply the ever more powerful communication technologies. As the economy transitions to predominantly digital commerce, finance, education, healthcare etc and AI and internet of machines become mainstream, India's need for communication infrastructure and regulatory innovation are growing. Moving to new modes of work and new models of business requires investment in continuous expansion and upgrade of the communication backbone of the economy, especially in the traditionally underserved regions such as the northeast. India needs to find ways to make its communication networks more sophisticated, extensive and reliable and to lower costs to the service providers and the users.*

- *How prepared is India's communication infrastructure for an AI-intensive economy?*
- *How can India localize telecom technologies and equipment?*
- *How could India ensure capable and reliable communication in the hilly states and other less densely populated areas?*

## Introductory Remarks **Rekha Sethi**

Director General

All India Management Association

## Welcome Address **Nikhil Sawhney**

President, AIMA and

Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Triveni Turbine Ltd

## Presentation of Awards - AIMA Managing India Awards 2024 for 'Outstanding Contribution to Media'

Presented to **Latha Venkatesh**

Consulting Editor, CNBC-TV18

Citation read by **Shiv Siddhant Narayan Kaul**

Managing Director, NICCO Engineering Services Pvt Ltd

## - AIMA Managing India Awards 2024 for 'Outstanding Corporate Citizen'

Presented to **Ashish Dhawan**

Founder & CEO, The Convergence Foundation and Founding Chairperson, Ashoka University

Citation read by **Anil Somani**  
Chairman Fostiima Business School

**Introduction of the Hon'ble Minister** **T V Narendran**  
Vice President, AIMA and  
CEO & Managing Director, Tata Steel Ltd

**Keynote Address** **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**  
Minister of Communications; Development of North Eastern Region  
Government of India

**Interaction with Audience**

**Concluding Remarks** **Suneeta Reddy**  
Senior Vice President, AIMA &  
Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd

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**1145 – 1215 hrs** **Tea / Coffee Break**

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**1215 – 1315 hrs**  
**Plenary Session 3**

**No laughing matter: The serious business of comedy**

*Indian comedy scene has transformed from a sideshow into the main act. It has become a sizeable and globalized industry with a large fan base in big cities, small towns and diaspora enclaves overseas. The growing demand for satire and laughter has spurred a proliferation of live shows, venues, and digital content platforms catering to diverse audiences. Digital platforms are fuelling comedy market's growth by enabling anytime, anywhere availability and by allowing experimentation in both content and formats. Comedy has become a viable alternative career for the professional class and the leading comedians are in great demand as product endorsers, brand ambassadors and collaborators in marketing campaigns. However, the comedy industry needs to manage social and political risks and sustain demand as the economic mood and popular tastes change.*

- *How has the rise of digital platforms impacted the growth of the comedy industry in India?*
- *In what ways are Indian comedians influencing mainstream culture?*
- *What are the economic opportunities for comedians as brand ambassadors and endorsers?*

**Moderator** **Vanshika Arora**  
Stand Up comedian and Vice President - Hosting Club

**Speakers** **Harsh Gujral**  
Standup Comedian

**Ravi Gupta**  
Standup Comedian

**Interaction with Audience**

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**1315 – 1415 hrs** **Networking Lunch**

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**1415 – 1500 hrs**  
**Plenary Session 4**

**Panel Discussion: - I did it my way**

*Women have found greater opportunities and success in the new economy and new society, yet women remain under-represented in leadership positions in most areas. Women continue to get the short straw in politics, bureaucracy, corporate leadership, startups, sports, arts, entertainment etc. The next generation of women needs positive role models to build their lives around their aspirations. Today's successful women need to open up to them and make it normal for them to have ambition and*

seek power. Nothing prepares a young person for struggle and triumph better than knowing how others overcame doubts and challenges to achieve extraordinary success. Each area of work has its own impediments and rewards and it would help aspirational youth to learn from the personal stories of outstanding achievers.

- How are the challenges and opportunities for the next generation of women are different from those of the current women leaders?
- What are the key mantras today's women leaders can offer to the next generation?
- How can gender be taken out of the leadership equation?

**Moderator** **Latha Venkatesh**  
Consulting Editor, CNBC-TV18

**Panellists** **Suneeta Reddy**  
Senior Vice President, AIMA &  
Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd

**Naina Lal Kidwai**  
Chairperson, Rothschild & Co India

**Shovana Narayan**  
Kathak Guru & IAAS (Retd)

**Rina Dhaka**  
Fashion designer

**Interaction with Audience**

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1505 – 1550 hrs

**Plenary Session 5**

**Panel Discussion:- Breeding next unicorns: Refreshing India's startup sector**

*India's startup sector has come a long way in the past 15 years and it has become entrenched in the mainstream economy. With the number of unicorns rising well above a hundred and the number of soonicorns running into a few hundreds, India's startup ecosystem appears healthy and promising. However, there is a commoditization of innovation in the startup sector with crowding in the already successful areas and a cornering of the capital by the gravitational pull of the unicorns and the soonicorns. The startup sector needs infusion of fresh ideas, founders, and investors to build innovation momentum and to churn out new unicorns regularly in the future. The startup sector also needs a big infusion of growth management capabilities, as the investors, regulators and the consumers are becoming more discerning and demanding.*

- Which areas of the economy will produce the next generation of unicorns?
- How can India channel more funding into the deep tech segment of the startup sector?
- How will diversity of founders and sectors help refresh technological and business innovation?

**Moderator** **Kanwaljit Singh**  
Founder & Managing Partner, Fireside Ventures

**Panellists** **Muskan Kakkar**  
Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer, GoMechanic

**Gaurav Singh Kushwaha**  
Founder and CEO, BlueStone

**Mahesh Bhalgat**  
Managing Director and Group CEO, Veeda Clinical Research Limited

**Interaction with Audience**

**Concluding Remarks Santosh Kumar**  
National Chairman - AIMA Young Leaders Council

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**1555 – 1640 hrs**

**Plenary Session 6**

**Panel Discussion: - India's rise: Influencing the present and shaping the future**

*India has emerged as a critical economic and strategic factor in the new global order that is defined by the rise of China and India, nationalist alarmism in the US and Europe, and the potential fallout of the wars in east Europe and west Asia. In a year when 64 countries elect new regimes, the US election is casting a long shadow on the future geopolitics. India's potential to rival China in production and consumption make it irresistible to a growth-starved world and its geography make it central to balance of power in Asia. However, the geopolitical uncertainty and unpredictability requires India to find ways to influence regional and global events and shape the next economic and security order. India needs to demonstrate both hard and soft power and establish its leadership in world affairs.*

- *Where are India's greatest opportunities amid the churn in global order?*
- *What are India's key challenges in securing its rise in a fractious and fragmenting world?*
- *How can India secure its acceptance as the leader in its own region and beyond?*

**Moderator**

**Indrani Bagchi**

Chief Executive Officer, Ananta Centre

**Panellists**

**Arun Kumar Singh**

Former Indian Ambassador to US

**T V Narendran**

Vice President, AIMA and  
CEO & Managing Director, Tata Steel Ltd

**Vineet Agarwal**

Managing Director, Transport Corporation of India Ltd

**Gunnar Hauptmann**

Deputy CEO and Head of Programme, St. Gallen Symposium

**Interaction with Audience**

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**1645 – 1730 hrs**

**Plenary Session 7**

**Forward to fundamentals: Role of capital and labour in new growth**

*Indian economy is back on rails but its dynamics need mending going forward to sustain its momentum over the next couple of decades. The capital-centric growth of the recent years has made the economy lopsided and it needs labour to figure more prominently in growth. It is becoming increasingly necessary to back infrastructure, technology, and financialization with a big improvement in employment quality and labour income. The vicious cycle of low-paid, low-skill work needs to be broken if the industry is to get more productive workers and if India wants to become a high per capita income country. The lag between technology change and workforce catch up needs to be managed. Ways must be found to hire more and pay more and to reform the taxation of labour income.*

- *What can be done to balance the role of capital and labour in the next phase of economic growth?*
- *What kind of policies are required to cushion the impact of fast-moving technologies on slow-changing labour?*
- *What role do the states need to play in raising employability and income of the workers?*

**Welcome**

**T V Narendran**

Vice President, AIMA and  
CEO & Managing Director, Tata Steel Ltd

**Keynote Address**     **V Anantha Nageswaran**  
Chief Economic Advisor  
Government of India

**Interaction with Audience**

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**End of Day One**

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## **Day 2: Thursday, 12 September 2024**

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**0845 – 0920 hrs**     **Registration and Networking Tea/Coffee**

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**0930 – 1015 hrs**

**Plenary Session 8**     **Panel Discussion: - Buoyant India: Navigating global turbulence**

*Indian economy is topping the growth charts and Indian CEOs are the most optimistic business leaders in the world today. A large number of Indian companies have rich balancesheets and their growth opportunities are increasing because of rising consumption at home, government's aggressive spending and incentives, and a recasting of the global markets and supply chains. However, a buoyant India Inc cannot avoid sharing the global anxiety about the return of wars, inflation, discriminatory industrial policies, and market fragmentation. They have to find ways around national insecurities in trade and technology flows and overcome the cost and efficiency challenges created by geopolitical tensions. While Indian CEOs can count on the certainty of sizeable economic growth at home, they need to work out how to cope with global turbulence and capture opportunities thrown up by the churn.*

- *What makes Indian CEOs far more optimistic than their peers in other large economies?*
- *What are the key geopolitical and policy challenges for Indian CEOs in globalizing their businesses?*
- *What kind of structures and business models are needed by Indian companies to thrive in an uncertain and turbulent world?*

**Chairman**     **Sunil Kant Munjal**  
Past President, AIMA and  
Chairman, The Hero Enterprise

**Panellists**     **Harsh Pati Singhania**  
Past President, AIMA and  
Chairman & Managing Director, JK Paper Ltd

**T V Mohandas Pai**  
Past President, AIMA and  
Chairman, Manipal Global Education

**R Mukundan**  
Managing Director & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd

**Sanjay Singh**  
Director-Strategy and External Relations, Jindal Steel and Power

**Hemant Jhahria**  
Head of Consulting, KPMG in India

**Interaction with Audience**

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**1020 – 1105 hrs**

**Plenary Session 9**

**Afterburner: The next generation reforms**

*Indian economy has a great momentum and it constantly requires fresh fuel to keep accelerating. Its engines of infrastructure investment, welfare spending, hard digitalization, production-linked incentives, and lower taxes for corporates have provided high revs, but now India needs the next generation of reforms to grow its economy even faster. India can still extract more from the fundamental factors of production - land, labour and capital - and it can add more growth engines, such as government-sponsored digital platforms, FDI for global supply chains, green technologies, and AI. The economy's operating system needs a major update with functionalities and features appropriate for the new age economy. There is need for radical measures that would enhance productivity and competitiveness of India without causing any damage to its current momentum.*

- Which parts of the economy could be made more dynamic with new generation reforms?
- How critical is digitalization and centralization of the economy to make it more efficient?
- What kind of deals can the states be offered to gain their consent and cooperation for land and labour reforms?

**Chairperson**

**Suneeta Reddy**

Senior Vice President, AIMA &  
Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd

**Keynote Address**

**Amitabh Kant**

G20 Sherpa of India  
Government of India

**Interaction with Audience**

**Concluding Remarks**

**P Balaji**

Group Head- GRC & Corporate Affairs, Air India Limited

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**1110 – 1155 hrs**

**Plenary Session 10**

**Fire side chat: - Uncharted: India's role in a multipolar world**

*The world is in uncharted territory as it is being reshaped by the rise of India and China and the superpower revivalism in the US, Russia, Europe and Japan. With so many powers around the global table, collaboration is becoming a zero-sum game and alignments are becoming transactional. India is in a unique position to play a decisive role in this multipolar global order because of its geography, its centrality to the economic growth and resilience of all powers, and its historic independence in foreign policy. However, in an anxious world, the circumstances and alignments can change quickly and dramatically. India needs to influence the thinking and behaviour of the rival powers to ensure that the world does not need another round of global violence to reach the negotiating table.*

- How can India ensure that it has a big say in ordering the emerging multipolar world?
- How can India protect its main bargaining chip - its economic growth - against potentially adverse geopolitical events?
- How critical is it for India to be a leader in South Asia to prove its credentials to be a global leader?

**Moderator**

**Nikhil Sawhney**

President, AIMA and  
Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Triveni Turbine Ltd

**In conversation with**

**Sachin Pilot**

National General Secretary – INC and  
Member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly and  
Former Cabinet Minister, Government of India

## Interaction with Audience

**Concluding Remarks** **Sunjay Kapur**  
Chairman, Sona Comstar

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**1200 – 1245 hrs**

**Plenary Session 11** **Panel Discussion: - Marshalling the markets: Driving growth, democratizing wealth**  
*India's market capitalization to GDP ratio has been rising and India needs it to rise faster to finance its rapid economic growth and to become a high-income country. Despite the surge in stock valuations and a significant diversity of investment options and instruments, the capacity of Indian markets to capitalize enterprises at a larger scale and to absorb huge global funds is still limited. Indian markets need be more innovative, transparent and trustworthy so that Indian masses' aversion to financial assets can be overcome and their savings can be turned into capital. India also needs its debt-leaning enterprises to be more ambitious and share their growth and wealth more widely. India's path to prosperity goes through its capital markets and the markets must be enabled to accelerate India's momentum.*

- *How is high volatility affecting the performance and prospects of Indian stockmarkets?*
- *What can India's policy makers, corporates and market intermediaries do to wean Indians masses from saving and get them to invest instead?*
- *What kind of financial and regulatory innovations would deliver low-cost funds at a massive scale for a rapid economic transformation and expansion?*

**Moderator** **Vishal Kampani**  
Non-Executive Vice Chairman, JM Financial Ltd

**Panellists** **Ashish Dhawan**  
Founder & CEO, The Convergence Foundation and Founding Chairperson, Ashoka University

**A Balasubramanian**  
Managing Director & CEO, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Ltd

**Vetri Subramaniam**  
Chief Investment Officer, UTI Asset Management Company Ltd.

## Interaction with Audience

**Concluding Remarks** **Sanjay Narayan**  
Chief General Manager, Zonal office – Delhi, Union Bank of India

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**1245 hrs** **Convention Concludes followed by Networking Lunch**

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