

3.5 days | Multiple Speakers | Live Q&A




Insight beyond information

IMA India's 26th Annual CEO Roundtable

Embracing Change: Strategising for a World in Flux

 **5th - 8th December, 2024**

 **Wildflower Hall, Shimla**

|| **DELEGATE AGENDA**

Thursday, 5th December, 2024

Registration and High Tea

4:00 PM

Venue : **Lawrence Hall**

Join a fun-filled evening with peers from across the country at the opening of the 2024 CEO Roundtable. A pleasant evening at Wildflower Hall, Shimla, the company of friends and peers – there couldn't be a better way of bringing in a weekend of learning and deep camaraderie.

Managing Turbulence: Learnings from IndiGo and Akasa Air

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Aditya Ghosh, Co-Founder & Board Member, Akasa Air



What does it take to start and grow a business in a complex and highly regulated environment such as India's, where price-sensitive consumers and infrastructural constraints add to the mix? In this session, learn what lessons IndiGo, India's largest airline, can offer about creating value and adapting through constant innovation. Equally, learn how Akasa Air, a disruptive new entrant into the space, is reimagining business models. Few individuals know this space as well as Aditya Ghosh, a Co-Founder of Akasa Air and former Board Member of IndiGo, who brings valuable insights into navigating the dynamics of business in India.

Tambola, Cocktails & Dinner

7:00 PM

Join us for an exciting Tambola Night! Enjoy a lively evening of numbers, luck and laughter as you connect with your peers. Whether you're here to win or simply to have fun, grab a drink, unwind and make memorable connections. Dinner will follow.

Friday, 6th December, 2024

Evolutionary Implications on Modern Life

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Rahul Bhasin, *Founder and Managing Partner of Baring Private Equity Partners India*



In his talk, "Evolutionary Implications on Modern Life," Rahul Bhasin reflects on the ways our swiftly evolving world challenges the slower pace of human adaptation. Divided into four areas, the discussion explores intriguing intersections between our evolutionary past and present-day realities.

1. **Nutrition and Biology:** By tracing how shifts in diet and lifestyle have impacted health, Bhasin considers why modern conditions like cancer, heart disease, and auto-immune are prevalent, exploring potential roots in the disconnect between our core biology and today's norms.
2. **Social Structures:** From religion, to marriage, to the dynamics of our larger communities, this section explores how evolving social frameworks shape—and sometimes miss—the mark in fulfilling deep-seated human needs shaped by millennia.
3. **Modern Lifestyle:** Reflecting on our overstimulated environments, from dopamine-driven media to hyper-sanitised spaces, we examine how daily life may challenge our mental and physical resilience in unexpected ways.

4. Business and Economics: This section draws on evolutionary principles to inspire resilient, impactful enterprises that thrive and contribute positively to society.

Through these four core lenses, we explore our evolutionary journey, aiming to carry insights from our past into a more balanced, harmonious approach to modern life.

Discussion Break

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

The Future of Wealth: Opportunities in India and Beyond

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM



Vikas Jaidka,

*Managing Director-Singapore,
DBS Bank*



Bharath Mani,

*Managing Director,
DBS Bank*



Moin Ladha,

Partner, Khaitan & Co

Join us for an engaging fireside chat with seasoned banking professionals as they explore the future of the banking and wealth management over the next five years. The discussion will highlight trends across various asset classes, delving into the opportunities and risks associated with these. With a rising domestic appetite for financial securities, the session will shed light on the evolving preferences of the modern Indian investor and the growing interest in global markets. The conversation will also touch on the India-Singapore corridor, a strategic corridor that presents multiple opportunities, alongside insights into overseas investment norms and strategies to navigate risks effectively.

Luncheon

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

At the Lawns

A Range of Activities

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

On the afternoon of Day 2 of the Roundtable, we've lined up a variety of exciting indoor and outdoor activities.

Activity 1 : Golf

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

The hotel will arrange a round of golf for you at a scenic nearby course, offering a relaxing and enjoyable experience amidst stunning views.

Note: Given the timings, participants will leave immediately after the session and will be provided a packed lunch for the journey to the course

Activity 2 : Sanctuary Trail

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

A vigorous, 3-hour, 7km trail starting from the hotel premises that leads you through one of South Asia's densest forests. This loop around the hill offers majestic views of the surrounding landscape, taking you through expansive meadows and into the dense forest, showcasing the beautiful local flora and fauna.

Activity 3 : Oaks and Orchards Trail

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

An enchanting 1.5-hour, 3 km trail, an easy hike from the hotel, that skirts the Mashobra hill. It then winds through thick oak forests and apple orchards dotted with colonial cottages, offering breathtaking views.

Activity 4 : Croquet Tournament

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Step onto our scenic lawns for an enjoyable croquet tournament, where you can unwind and engage in friendly competition with your peers. It's the perfect way to connect, relax, and savor a day outdoors in a beautiful setting.

Activity 5 : Strawberry Trail

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

A pleasant 1-hour, 3km walk from the hotel, skirting the Shimla Water Catchment Wildlife Sanctuary. This easy trail loops along the Mahasu Ridge through a lush green forest reserve and is suitable for walkers of all fitness levels due to its gentle gradient. This short trail also serves as a wonderful introduction to the flora of the Himalayas and offers some stunning views.

Shimla: Abode of the Little Tin Gods, Queen of the Hills

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Raaja Bhasin, Historian and Author



This insightful session will begin with the origin of the Himalayas, the arrival of the East India Company, and key movements across the Himalayan region and North India, culminating in a focus on the historic town of Shimla. Once British India's summer capital, Shimla served as the seat of the Raj's administration and armed forces for much of the 20th century. The Shimla Railway, completed in 1903 and now a UNESCO World Heritage site, stands as a testament to the town's colonial legacy, marked by architectural and engineering marvels. Shimla has also been the backdrop for historic accords, both pre- and post-Independence, including British negotiations with figures like Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the 1800s. Guiding us through Shimla's history is Raaja Bhasin, India's foremost expert on Himachal and Shimla. Renowned for his books and photographic compilations, he played a key role in securing the Kalka-Shimla Railway UNESCO World Heritage inscription and represented the state to the UNESCO team. Raaja will vividly recount Shimla's centuries of romance, intrigue, and political manoeuvring, while celebrating the timeless beauty of this Himalayan gem.

Cocktails and Dinner

7:30 PM

Unwind and network in a relaxed atmosphere over cocktails and a sumptuous dinner. Enjoy the evening's highlight—a live band performance providing a perfect blend of music and ambience to close the day on a high note.

Saturday, 7th December, 2024

YOGA

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

This session combines calming postures with mindful breathing techniques designed to centre your mind and body, helping you achieve a deep sense of relaxation and inner peace. Whether you're a seasoned practitioner or new to yoga, you'll be guided through movements that release tension, promote flexibility and leave you feeling balanced and refreshed. It's the perfect way to reconnect with yourself and set a serene tone for the day ahead.

The World in 2025: Economics and Geopolitics

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Adit Jain, Chairman and Editorial Director, IMA India



Roughly half of the world's population will have cast ballots in local, regional, legislative or presidential elections across more than 80 countries this year. National polls in France, the UK and India have reshaped governance in these countries, and the fallout of America's recent presidential election will remain a central focus for businesses across the world. These political changes arise amid growing economic and geopolitical strife and rising global debt, creating uncertainties that will affect policy frameworks, financial markets and trade. In this session, Adit Jain will provide an overview of the world economy and a shifting geopolitical environment, with a particular emphasis on India. The discussion will also touch on general growth prospects and trade relations between countries.

Discussion Break

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

AI in Business: Behind the Data Pipeline

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Jatinder Singh Pabla, *Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, ST Telemedia Global Data Centres*

AI is revolutionising industries by driving new efficiencies, enabling business transformation and enhancing the customer experience. Businesses today recognise the transformative potential of AI and its role in shaping the future. Behind AI's end-products is a complex data pipeline, involving vast amounts of structured and unstructured data, data cleaning, processing and model training. This session will touch upon the evolving role of data centres in today's digital ecosystem, and how they are influencing cloud infrastructure, AI/ML and critical sectors such as BFSI, enterprise and government. The speaker will explore how AI/ML demand is driving speed and scale, creating challenges and opportunities for providers, suppliers, customers and hyperscalers alike.

Discussion Break

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Strategic Focus Workshop: Navigating AI, Sustainability, Risk and Crisis Management with Working Lunch

12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

This interactive session will examine some of the key focus areas for businesses today: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Sustainability, Risk and Crisis Management. Participants will break into smaller teams based on their chosen focus area. Each team will strategise around their chosen topic and subsequently share insights with the broader group on how they are approaching these issues within their own businesses.

Key areas of discussion will include:

- Strategic Approaches: How is your business approaching this priority area? What frameworks, technologies or practices are in place?
- Impact on Business: How does this area influence your business outcomes, growth or competitive positioning?
- Challenges: What barriers or pain points are you encountering in this area?
- Solutions and Adaptations: What innovative or practical solutions have helped overcome potential challenges?

Teams will discuss these points and, after refining their insights, will present them in a follow-up session. The objective is to foster cross-industry learning, refine best practices and generate actionable recommendations for each area.

Reimagining Brand Communications: A CEO's Guide

2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

Biren Ghose, Managing Director – Asia Pacific & Global Excom Member, Technicolor Group



Technology has enabled a brave new world of intelligent brand communication. From the traditional, advertising-agency-led models that dominated just a few years ago, today, brand communication is far less linear and far more experiential. AI and other technological advancements have made possible new ways of engaging with customers, whether in the B2B, B2C or B2B2C space. They have, however, also created new challenges, such as around copyrights and the ownership of intellectual property. This session, led by a world leader in tech-enabled communication, will examine the opportunities available in this space, and the CEO's role in driving them forward.

Discussion Break

4:15 PM - 4:30 PM

Strategic Focus Workshop: Insights Exchange

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

In this follow-up session to the Strategic Workshop, representatives from each team will present the insights and strategies identified in the previous session, where groups explored AI, Sustainability, Risk and Crisis Management. These presentations will showcase unique approaches to overcoming challenges and driving business impact in these critical areas. Participants will gain valuable cross-functional insights, practical takeaways and innovative solutions to refine their own strategies and address shared obstacles more effectively.

Laugh it off with Stand-Up Comedy

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Neeti Palta, Award-winning comedian



Put your hands together for an entertaining live show with Neeti Palta, an award-winning comedian, who has been a part of the comedy scene since its inception in India. With a writing background in advertising and TV, she draws influences from real-life experiences and our innate Indian-ness. Neeti will tickle your funny bone and at the same time stimulate your intellect.

Cocktails and Dinner

8:00 PM

Join us for an evening of mingling, fine dining, and musical fun. Savor cocktails and a delightful dinner while enjoying a spirited karaoke session running throughout the night—your chance to showcase your singing talent or cheer on your peers for a memorable and entertaining night!

Sunday, 8th December, 2024

Bracing for Change: Geopolitics After the 2024 US Polls

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Pramit Pal Chaudhuri, Head of India Practice at Eurasia Group



Donald Trump's impending return to office holds significant implications for both domestic policy and global geopolitics. This session will explore how a Trump 2.0 administration's policies are likely to influence foreign relations and economic priorities, with a particular focus on US-India relations. Our expert speaker will provide an in-depth analysis of the geopolitical shifts and their potential impact on India's diplomatic strategies, business environment and global positioning. The discussion aims to help Indian stakeholders anticipate and adapt to the evolving international landscape, identifying both challenges and opportunities.

Brunch and Close

11:30 AM

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Clothing essentials

Please remember to pack warm clothing for your trip to The Oberoi Wildflower Hall, as temperatures can drop significantly, especially in the evenings. Layering is recommended to stay comfortable during the conference sessions, events and outdoor activities.