

THE CHALLENGE OF INDIA

7 – 8 JUNE 2007, ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

On June 7 – 8, 2007, TEHELKA — a media house in India known for its commitment to public interest journalism — is hosting an important and unusual summit, **The Challenge of India, at the Royal Society of Arts in London.** (8, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EZ.)

At a time when India is arousing tremendous interest in the world community. Tehelka's summit offers a unique window into India. Most forums on India interpret it through a monochromatic lens. Shining India. Buoyant economy. Huge consumer market.

But the truth about India is much more complex than this. To successfully engage with India, one has to understand its complex socio-political realities. The road to economic boom in India cannot be a borrowed idea. It demands a new creative approach.

The Challenge of India will tackle issues of public interest in India, rarely discussed in international forums. How is India really responding to globalisation? What are the new energies coursing through the country? How is one to approach its complex socio-political realities? What are the most creative responses to it? What are the possible pitfalls?

The summit's agenda has been constructed to orchestrate means through which the world can develop a more enlightened and nuanced understanding of the subcontinent.

To do this, **The Challenge of India** brings together a very impressive raft of speakers. A big line-up of influential corporate, civil society and political leaders cutting across party lines, from both India and the UK.

The discussions will be led by **3 keynote speakers. Nobel Laureate Sir VS Naipaul** will speak on his vision on the future of India and the vast changes sweeping over it. Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, **Mr Kamal Nath** on walking the economic tightrope in India. And former Law Minister and legal luminary **Ram Jethmalani** on the India's successful but idiosyncratic foreign policy.

The Summit offers a tremendous opportunity to listen to and interact with some of the most influential players shaping India today.

A detailed agenda and note on sessions and their timings is appended with this release.

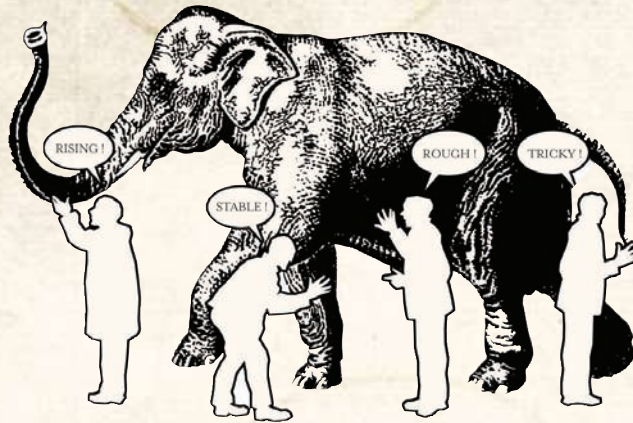
Sir VS Naipaul, who has earlier spoken out on behalf of Tehelka, says:
"I have backed Tehelka for its independent voice, courage, and high public values. It has an important role in the vast changes sweeping India."

For more details: www.criticalfutures.org

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1 COUNTRY ♦ 2 DAYS ♦ 25 EMINENT SPEAKERS
NUMBERLESS QUESTIONS

**Critical Futures Lectures ♦ Shining India, Simmering India ♦ Riddle of the Young
Potential Trips: How You Can Fly, How You Can Fail
Rough Weather: The Role of India in Global Climate Change ♦ New Passages to India**

ANSHU JAIN (*Head of Global Markets, Deutsche Bank*) **ANALJIT SINGH** (*Chairman, Max India Limited*)
ARUNA ROY (*Social Activist, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS, Organization for the Empowerment of Workers and Peasants)*) **ARUN MAIRA** (*Chairman, Boston Consulting Group*) **ATUL PUNJ** (*Chairman Punj Lloyd Sembawang Simon Carves*) **BILL EMMOTT** (*Former Editor, The Economist*) **D RAJA** (*National Secretary, CPI, a left wing party*) **DIGVIJAYA SINGH** (*General Secretary Congress Party & Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh*) **GURCHARAN DAS** (*Management Guru and Ex CEO Procter & Gamble*)
H S NARULA (*Chairman of the D S Group and Ebony Retail Holdings Ltd*) **JJ IRANI** (*Director, Tata Sons*)
KAMLESH SHARMA (*Indian High Commissioner, UK*) **KAPIL SIBAL** (*Union Minister for Science and Technology*) **KARAN BILLIMORIA** (*CBE & CEO Cobra Beer*) **KISHORE BIYANI** (*CEO, Future Group and MD, Pantaloon Retail*) **LADY LYNN DE ROTHSCHILD** (*Founder and Chief Executive, EL Rothschild LLC*)
MILIND DEORA (*Lok Sabha Member, Mumbai South Constituency*) **SIR NICK STERN** (*Head of the Government Economic Service, Adviser to the UK Government on Economics of Climate Change and Development and former Chief Economist of the World Bank*) **NIKESH ARORA** (*Vice President of European Operations, Google*) **OMAR ABDULLAH** (*President of National Conference and Former Union Minister of State, External Affairs*) **PRAFUL PATEL** (*Minister of State for Civil Aviation with Independent Charge, Government of India*) **PROFESSOR PHILIP STOTT** (*Emeritus Professor of Biogeography, University of London; formerly Head of Geography at SOAS*) **RAJIV PRATAP RUDY** (*Former Minister for Civil Aviation and Former Minister of State, Commerce*) **SANDEEP PANDEY** (*Senior Social Activist, Co founder "Asha for education" and leader National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM)*)
STEFAN KOSCIUSZKO (*Chief Executive, Asia House*) **VIKRAM AKULA** (*CEO and Founder of SKS Micro Finance*) and **VIKRAM MEHTA** (*Chairman Shell Group of Companies*)

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Tehelka is a unique media brand in India, strongly associated with courage, integrity and independent reporting. It is committed to the two most crucial pillars of a free press: public interest journalism and the appetite to question. It is not aligned to any political party or business house.

Tehelka first shot to international fame when it broke a sting investigation into defence corruption in India in 2001. This was hailed as a watershed in Indian journalism by global media. The government retaliated forcing Tehelka to shut down. Tarun Tejpal, a reputed journalist, and founder editor of Tehelka, stood his ground and fought back. Tehelka's credentials emerged impeccable, and his stand earned it immense public support.

In 2004, Tehelka was relaunched as a national weekly English newspaper. In a campaign unprecedented in the history of media, thousands of ordinary Indian citizens supported the comeback of the paper with advance subscriptions. Also, 220 of some of India's most eminent citizens – writers, artists, film stars, politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen – paid Rs 1 lakh each to become Founder Subscribers of the paper.

In the three years since its relaunch, Tehelka has re-established its reputation for hard investigative journalism, fine writing and in-depth analysis. Some of the most important public interest stories in India in the last three years have been broken by Tehelka.

The paper is read by all the important intellectuals and decision makers in India. And some of the best Indian writers and columnists have written for Tehelka – including Arundhati Roy, Amitav Ghosh, Rana Dasgupta, Amit Chaudhuri, Meera Syal, William Dalrymple, Patrick French and others.

Tehelka's commitment to public interest issues is amplified by its **Critical Futures** series. Last year, Tehelka hosted a path-breaking new forum **The Summit of the Powerless** in India. This brought together on a single platform the three stakeholders of a free society: money power, political power, and people power. This triggered many crucial new conversations and was widely hailed as a first in India.

On 27 April, 2007, the Tehelka Foundation – an adjunct of the paper and a not for profit Trust, – hosted a highly successful mini conference on **Equality, Quality and Quantity – The Elusive Triangle in Indian Education**. The Foundation seeks to inspire young people to engage with the community and to work towards social integration. Frequent workshops and programs are held to raise their awareness of citizen rights and responsibilities as well as enabling them to enhance their life skills.

Tehelka's **The Challenge of India** summit in London is part of this Critical Futures series.

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art FRIENDS OF TEHELKA BRING YOU
for freedom

LEADING INDIAN ARTISTS PAINTING WITH EMINENT INDIANS. 85 ARTWORKS.
AN ART AUCTION LIKE NO OTHER ON 7 JUNE AT BONHAMS; 11 JUNE AT ASIA HOUSE
ART PREVIEW AT ASIA HOUSE, 31 MAY – 11 JUNE 2007

Friends of Tehelka have constructed a very exciting art auction —
Art for Freedom — on June 7, 2007, 6pm onwards at **Bonhams**,
the prestigious London auction house on Bond Street, and a second one
at **Asia House**, 63, New Cavendish Street, London WIG 7LP
on **June 11, 2007**, 6pm onwards.

At a time when there is a great and growing interest in the work of Indian artists,
Art for Freedom comes as an important showcase. The auction will feature **85 canvases**
by a spectacular range of established Indian masters and a newer
generation of cutting edge artists.

In an unprecedented act, guaranteed to generate excitement,
the internationally famous painter **MF Husain** and the Bollywood superstar
Shah Rukh Khan will collaborate on an artwork, live at **Bonhams**
on **June 7, 2007**, from 6 pm.

A unique aspect of the Art for Freedom line-up is the fact that many
of the art works are collaborative efforts between the artists and eminent citizens
from India and the UK – creating canvases of great curiosity and value.

Art for Freedom will be on preview at **Asia House**
63, New Cavendish Street, London WIG 7LP
May 31 to June 11, 2007.

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