

## TED CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES 103 FELLOWS FOR TEDIndia 2009

NEW YORK, Sept. 14, 2009 — Organizers of the TED Conference will bring 103 TEDIndia Fellows to Mysore, India, to participate in TEDIndia, the first-ever TED in Asia. TEDIndia, “The Future Beckons,” will take place Nov. 4-7, 2009, on the high-tech campus of Infosys Technologies Ltd.

The TEDIndia Fellows are a diverse group of men and women, representing not only India, Pakistan and Bangladesh but also Indonesia, Canada, Tajikistan, the United States, China, Nigeria and Oman. TEDIndia Fellows include engineers, environmental scientists and pollution experts, human-rights activists, musicians, athletes and filmmakers. One is a female Olympic-class sailor. One runs an innovative rickshaw business. One is a robotics developer. All are committed to the spread of great ideas.

“As the world's influence moves to the East, the TEDIndia Fellows program is proud to showcase the work of 103 visionaries born or working in South Asia, especially in India, but also in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and the rest of the world,” says Tom Rielly, TED Fellows Director and TED Community Director.

In addition to attending as full members of the TEDIndia conference audience, all TED Fellows will take part in a one-day pre-conference where, among other benefits, they will receive world-class communication training and collaborate with their peers. Select Fellows will be invited to speak on the TED Fellows, TED University and main TED stages. Their TEDTalks may be selected for posting on [TED.com](http://TED.com), where each has the potential to be viewed hundreds of thousands of times. Fellows will also participate in the TED community throughout the next year, by telling their ongoing stories on the TED Fellows blog, being featured in the online Fellows directory and participating in a private social network.

The principal goal of the TED Fellows program is to empower Fellows to effectively communicate their work to the TED community and to the world.

Here are just a few of the 103 TEDIndia Fellows:

**Sean Blagsvedt** is the CEO of Babajob.com, an online enterprise connecting employers to informal-sector employees in the developing world — such as maids, cooks and office helpers — through a combination of mobile phones, location, skill and price filtering and social connections.

**Svati Bhogle** is the chief executive of Technology Informatics Design Endeavor (TIDE), a nonprofit devoted to promoting sustainable development through technological interventions.

**Kishi Arora** is a pastry chef and the “cakesmith” behind the Foodaholics treats and blog.

**Jane Chen** is the co-founder and CEO of Embrace, a social enterprise that aims to help the millions of vulnerable babies born every year in developing countries through a low-cost infant sleeping bag that can regulate a baby’s temperature.

**Shiva Keshavan** is India's three-time Winter Olympian and the youngest athlete ever to qualify for the Olympics in the luge.

**Andrew Mendelson** has been playing the sitar for a dozen years. His documentary film, *A Cricket in the Court of Akbar*, chronicles his journey to India to compete in the largest music competition in the state of Rajasthan.

**Shahida Saleem** is the founder of Sehat First, a social enterprise that provides access to basic health care and pharmaceutical services across Pakistan by means of self-sustainable, franchised tele-health centers.

**Santosh Sigdel** is a Nepali human rights lawyer.

**Roshini Thinakaran** is the founder of Women at the Forefront, a multimedia project examining war and conflict through the eyes of women.

**Rikin Gandhi** is CEO of Digital Green, a research project that seeks to disseminate targeted agricultural information to small and marginal farmers in India through digital video.

The TEDIndia Fellows program is underwritten by the visionary investment of “mentor capital” firm Sherpalo Ventures, with additional funding from Google.org.

“Sherpalo Ventures supports the TEDIndia Fellows program to help nurture the next generation of exceptional Indian leaders, whether extraordinary entrepreneurs, visionary NGO founders, world-class artists and filmmakers, or ingenious inventors, as they work to solve the challenges facing our diverse and multifaceted country,” said Sandeep Murthy, Partner, Sherpalo Ventures India. “We further realize that India is part of a larger South Asian community and wish to foster closer bonds among these nations by connecting innovators across borders in all sectors of society.”

To meet all 103 Fellows, please visit <http://www.TED.com/fellows>.

The TED Fellows program seeks individuals 21-40 years old (although anyone 18 and over can apply) with demonstrated remarkable achievement in their fields of endeavor. The program is accepting fellowship applications through Sept. 25,

2009, for the TED2010 Conference, “What the World Needs Now,” to be held Feb. 9-13, 2010, in Long Beach, California (information available at [TED.com/fellows](http://TED.com/fellows)). The program focuses on candidates from five regions: Asia/Pacific, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Middle East. The TED Fellows program is made possible by the visionary support of the Bezos family, Sherpalo Ventures, the Harnisch Foundation, the Case Foundation, private donors and Nokia.

Details on each Fellow and the program are available at [TED.com/fellows](http://TED.com/fellows). To support the program or for more information, contact Logan McClure at +1 212.346.9333 or via email at [fellows@ted.com](mailto:fellows@ted.com). Follow the TED Fellows blog at [tedfellows.posterous.com](http://tedfellows.posterous.com).

## **About TED**

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. Started as a four-day conference in California 25 years ago, TED has grown to support those world-changing ideas with multiple initiatives. The annual TED Conference invites the world's leading thinkers and doers to speak for 18 minutes. Their talks are then made available, free, at TED.com. TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Al Gore, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sir Richard Branson, Nandan Nilekani, Philippe Starck, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Isabel Allende and UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown. The annual TED Conference takes place in Long Beach, California; TEDGlobal is held each year in Oxford, UK, and this November, the TEDIndia Conference will be held in Mysore, India. TED's media initiatives include TED.com, where new TEDTalks are posted daily, and the Open Translation Project, which provides subtitles and interactive transcripts as well as the ability for any TEDTalk to be translated by volunteers worldwide. TED has established the annual TED Prize, where three exceptional individuals with a wish to change the world are given the opportunity to put their wishes into action, and TEDx, which offers individuals or groups a way to host local, self-organized events around the world. Follow TED on Twitter, [twitter.com/tedtalks](http://twitter.com/tedtalks), or on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/TED](http://www.facebook.com/TED)

TEDIndia, “The Future Beckons,” will be held in Nov. 4-7, 2009, in Mysore, India. TED2010, “What the World Needs Now,” will be held Feb. 9-13, 2010, in Long Beach, California, along with TEDActive, a simulcast conference of TED2010, in Palm Springs, California. TEDGlobal 2010, “And Now the Good News,” will be held July 13-16, 2010, in Oxford, UK.

## **About TEDIndia**

TEDIndia will be held Nov. 4-7, 2009, just outside Mysore, on the high-tech campus built by Infosys to train its thousands of engineering graduates. TEDIndia

offers a fast-paced, highly curated, three-day stage program featuring TED's famous 18-minute talks, plus music, comedy, dance, short talks, video interludes and other surprises. Preconference, there's a full day of TED University, during which TEDIndia attendees can give their own short talks or performances. TEDIndia will host a class of 103 exceptional TED Fellows from around the world — young thinkers and doers in all fields who can become tomorrow's leaders. Sponsors of TEDIndia include Infosys, Google.org, Nokia and Sherpalo Ventures.