

# dishaa<sup>Venture</sup>

## Media Pack

### 29 November – 3 December 2011

### London

UK » INDIA



Tilda



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## About Dishaa

The aim of Dishaa is to expand, enrich and energise relations between India and the UK by investing in the next generation of leaders. By fostering discussion amongst a network of diverse leaders, the Venture will develop shared approaches to 21st Century political, economic and social challenges for emerging talent in both countries.

Common Purpose has developed the Dishaa Venture in partnership with the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

The 40 participants (20 from India and 20 from the UK) are high achievers from different backgrounds and a variety of sectors.

Participants will draw insights from across the two countries and from the diverse range of leaders and organisations involved. It will allow future leaders to work together to address complex challenges.

Each year Dishaa will identify a compelling challenge, common to both countries. The participants then gather – in India or the UK – to meet the challenge. They investigate the issues locally, develop their thinking, work up ideas – big and small – and present their findings.

[www.commonpurpose.org/dishaa](http://www.commonpurpose.org/dishaa)

## Dishaa challenge

The 15 members of the Dishaa Advisory Group met to propose and discuss what challenge they would set for the 40 participants for the second Dishaa Venture.

The challenge must be:

- A compelling issue for future leaders that is common to both the UK and India
- Significant and wide-reaching in its impact but contained in its focus to ensure the participant group can explore and present feasible and meaningful solutions.

During the Advisory Group meeting which took place on 13 April 2011, the following challenge was set:

**Unique carbon cutting measures are happening locally in India and the UK. How do we accelerate and multiply our actions to reduce carbon emissions by 50% in the next five years?**



## Dishaa overview

- Four-day intensive Venture in London, UK – 29 November-2 December 2011: methods of open space and positive enquiry will enable participants to workshop ideas, deepen their understanding of the challenge and work in learning groups to develop solutions
- Continued development of solutions with expert advisors and mentors, using [Cisco TelePresence](#), December 2011 - June 2012
- Presentation of solutions to a panel of policy experts, Autumn 2012.

## Outcomes

Participant findings and observations – large and small – and their reflections on what they have learned will be shared on the final day of the event with a panel of environment and sustainability experts. Following this intensive four-day Venture, the participants will continue to refine and develop their solutions and recommendations and use [Cisco TelePresence](#) technology and social media to continue to work together over six months.

In Autumn 2012, participants will present their solutions to the Dishaa challenge to an audience of policy makers, think tanks and academics.



## Dishaa Advisory Group

Dishaa's leadership team includes an Advisory Group of senior level leaders with expertise in the public, government, private, cultural and not-for-profit sectors in both the United Kingdom and India.

The responsibility of the Advisory Group is to provide strategic direction on the challenge for participants in the course, oversee the governance of the Venture and strategy of the application process, and to determine the challenge set for participants in the Venture year-on-year.

The Dishaa Advisory Group Members are listed below, and their biographies are listed on the [website](#):

- Sudhakar Rao, former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka (Dishaa Chair)
- Dr Isher Ahluwalia, Chairperson, ICRIER
- Liam Byrne MP
- Michael Duck, Senior Vice President, UBM Asia
- Dame Amelia Fawcett, Board Member, State Street Corporation
- R Gopalakrishnan, Executive Director, Tata Sons, India
- Deepender Hooda, MP (Member of Parliament for Rohtak, Haryana)
- Jo Johnson, MP, Member of Parliament for Orpington
- Jude Kelly, Artistic Director, South Bank Centre
- Chris Mathias, Director, Arbor Ventures, UK
- Lord Chris Patten, Chancellor, University of Oxford
- Mariam Ram, Founder, TNQ Publishers
- Dr Devi Shetty, Chairman, Narayana Hrudayalaya, Bangalore
- Lord Nick Stern, UK India Round Table, UK
- Philip Wright, Partner, PwC, UK



## Dishaa partners

### Common Purpose

Common Purpose is an independent international leadership development organisation. Over the past 22 years, Common Purpose has designed and delivered courses that help people at all stages of their career become more effective leaders in society.

Common Purpose was founded by Julia Middleton in 1989 and now operates in 12 countries around the world, including: France, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Ireland, South Africa, Sweden, The Netherlands, Turkey and the UK.

Common Purpose runs courses that give people from the private, public and not-for-profit sector the inspiration, skills and connections to become better leaders both at work and in society. Common Purpose helps people, organisations, cities and regions to succeed, by broadening the horizons of their leaders and developing their ability to work together and lead complex change.

Common Purpose deals with real life issues and insights. We connect people who might otherwise never meet and give participants an understanding of the local context in which they do their jobs, the impact of their decisions and the contribution they can make. We operate in countries across the world – and connect them up. So participants are exposed to a broader international perspective of leadership.

There are 35,000 Common Purpose alumni around the world and each year, 3,000 people complete a Common Purpose course. To attract the widest range of potential participants from a diverse range of backgrounds, Common Purpose provides approximately 600 bursaries a year for those who could not otherwise afford to attend.

### Common Purpose in India

Common Purpose launched in India in 2008.

When Common Purpose first launched in India, 500 leaders from across all sectors of the country responded that the idea behind this type of leadership development was highly relevant to them.

Common Purpose's leadership development courses in the cities of Bangalore and Chennai have helped to strengthen civil society at a local level in as evident from the impact stories in these cities. As a result of this, Common Purpose Mumbai launched in 2011.

Sudhakar Rao says: "The new millennium has brought with it new challenges for development and leadership and has underlined the relevance of a shared vision. If challenges are to be transformed into opportunities, we need to erase boundaries between public, private and community sectors to effectively reckon with current demands and exigencies.

"Indeed there is an urgent and increasing need to build cross sectoral partnerships and alliances and it is this aspect of Common Purpose's vision and work in India – that of



building new leadership and durable change through experiential and cross sectoral learning – that has impressed me the most. It enables participants drawn from the three sectors to synergise their knowledge through interactive exchanges and visits to investigate and effectively grapple with the realities of change.”

“We have discovered just how much young leaders from both countries have to learn from each other,” says Julia Middleton, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Common Purpose. “The experience, energy and commitment of leaders in both the young and old democracies is deep and inspiring.”

[www.commonpurpose.org](http://www.commonpurpose.org)

### **The British Foreign & Commonwealth Office**

The British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), or ‘the Foreign Office’ for short, is the government department responsible for promoting British interests overseas and supporting our citizens and businesses around the globe.

In today’s economic climate, international relations are more important than ever.

There are major changes under way in the world. For example, economic power is moving eastwards into Asia. The spread of democracy and the power of the internet are giving non-government groups and the individual new opportunities to contribute to decisions affecting them. And the need for global solutions to the great issues of our time, such as climate change, terrorism and social inequality, means that international institutions are more important than ever.

The UK is well placed to benefit from these changes. We are an influential member of key international organisations such as the United Nations, the European Union, NATO and the Commonwealth, and we have strong links with many parts of the world. Britain is emerging as a global hub for ideas and a primary force in the search for answers to global problems.

The FCO and its worldwide network of embassies and consulates is a unique national asset.

Our diplomats have world-class skills in understanding and influencing what is happening abroad, supporting our citizens who are travelling and living overseas, helping to manage migration into Britain, promoting British trade and other interests abroad and encouraging foreign investment in the UK.

[www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)



## Dishaa sponsors

### Kingfisher Airlines

Kingfisher Airlines is India's only five star airline. India's favourite airline commenced operations with a brand new fleet of aircraft on 9 May 2005. Widely acclaimed as India's most premium private airline, it now offers over 380 flights daily connecting 71 key business and leisure destinations in India and abroad. Kingfisher Airlines is committed to the spirit of innovation and offers its guests the unparalleled flying experience. It has been conferred the 'Five - Star Airline Status', the most recognized and prestigious award that honours airline Product and Service Quality Excellence, by Skytrax, the world's leading, independent travel forum and air travel information organisation.

Kingfisher Airlines has been conferred numerous national and international awards in the last five years, the latest being the awards conferred at the world airline awards in Hamburg, wherein it bagged the best Airline award for India and central Asia, Staff excellence award and the Best economy seat in the world award.

[www.flykingfisher.com](http://www.flykingfisher.com)

### PwC

PwC firms provide industry-focused assurance, tax and advisory services to enhance value for their clients. More than 163,000 people in 151 countries in firms across the PwC network share their thinking, experience and solutions to develop fresh perspectives and practical advice.

[www.pwc.com](http://www.pwc.com)

### Tilda

Tilda Pure Basmati is the UK's number one Basmati brand by volume and value. With over 30 years of experience in buying, importing and selling the highest quality Pure Basmati Rice, it's a name that you can trust. Tilda supports over 10,000 farmers in India, each of whom it knows by name, by providing free Pure Basmati seeds, advice on farming techniques and ultimately ensures they receive a fair price for their crop at the market.

Tilda remains a family business, employing over 200 people in the UK, and is proud of its reputation for uncompromising quality and commitment to sustaining the legendary status of Basmati.

[www.tilda.com](http://www.tilda.com)

### UBM

UBM (United Business Media) is a leading global media business which provides events; data, marketing and information products; print products; and targeting, distribution and monitoring services to specialist business communities. UBM employs more than 5,800 staff in more than 30 countries worldwide.

[www.ubm.com](http://www.ubm.com)



## Spokespeople interview opportunities

Interviews with all Dishaa Advisory Group members and sponsor representatives are available on request.

Dishaa Chair, Sudhakar Rao, Common Purpose Founder and Chief Executive, Julia Middleton and Common Purpose UK Chief Executive, Adirupa Sengupta, are available for interview by appointment with Isabella Betkowski at selected times.

To arrange an interview, contact [Isabella Betkowski](#), Communications and Alumni Officer at Common Purpose.

## Feature menu

- Interviews with and quotes from stakeholders, spokespersons, participants and alumni of Dishaa.
- Photographs and videos from both current and previous Dishaa Ventures.
- The Dishaa Challenge: shared UK-India interest, potential approaches and impacts, participant challenges and opportunities. Sudhakar Rao announces the focus for how 40 emerging leaders will tackle a key issue relevant to the UK and India.
- Sudhakar Rao and Julia Middleton on how East/West leaders can be effective.
- Accompany Dishaa participants as they visit corporations, community projects and local government initiatives to investigate the carbon reduction challenge.
- Register your interest in covering the Dishaa participant report back event, where 40 emerging leaders will present their response to the Dishaa Challenge to policy experts across sectors from the UK and India.

## Contact

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