

# India Conference 2018 – Disruptive Innovations

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By Harbachan Singh

As in previous years the 15<sup>th</sup> India Conference 2018 organized by the graduating students at Harvard University Business School and the Harvard Kennedy School was organized extremely well and handled in a highly professional manner. As expected the venue was awesome, elegant, state of the art in many respects and the corridors and halls manifested the glory and the high esteem this institution enjoyed as the premier institute of higher learning in the world. Over 500 participants attended from all over USA and some from India.

The theme for the 2018 India Conference was “Disruptive innovations in the last few years”. The brilliant main speakers came primarily from the Indian government administration, movie industry, business and political fields including the titans of the media from India.

For example, Mr. Manish Sisodia, Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Mr. Kamal Hassan, candidate for the post of Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Ms. Barkha Dutt, Ravish Kumar and Ms. Nidhi Razdan from the media. The Consul General of India, Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty also participated exceedingly well in an important setting. These thought leaders had a brainstorming session to unravel the exciting opportunities that lay ahead for India. Manish Sisodia, emphasized, “Our Government’s vision is to provide 100% coverage of high quality education and healthcare at very low, affordable cost” and that the Indians needed ‘Health Assurance’ not insurance.

## Featured Speakers:

Manish Sisodia



Kamal Hassan



Barkha Dutt



Sabyasachi Mukherjee



The panel discussions dealt with a wide range of issues, including the empowerment of women issue, the successful experiences of budding entrepreneurs and the originators or manufacturers of new consumer brands recounted their start up experiences and was considered to be very educational.

Considering the enormous enthusiasm and benefits that were generated at this conference, serious thought should be given to holding more such conferences in other parts of USA including New York. I believe that Columbia University, which had a sizeable Indian student population could spearhead one such an initiative.

## **Harbachan Singh, MA., Barrister-at-Law (UK):**

After working for 10 years in the Police Department in Malaysia, Mr. Singh worked with the United Nations in New York for over 30 years and retired as the Chairman of the United Nations Headquarters Committee on Contracts. He has also served several United Nations Peace-keeping missions in leadership posts in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jamaica, Kenya and East Timor. Since his retirement

Mr. Singh has been an active community activist. He has served as President of several large Organizations and often given testimony at the NY. City Council meetings. He is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades.

