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## Low investment - High rentals Bhiwadi (NCR)

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S&P BSE Sensex 20,482.43 265.04 (+1.31%)

GOLD 29,650.00

**-198.00** (-0.67%)

Nikkei 225 15,619,13 237,4

237.41 (+1.52%) 1.

1.059.95

39.40 (+3.86%)

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Aug 08. 2013, 02.16 PM IST

# IPE Global to cut bottlenecks in policy implementation

Policies in India are high on intent but low on implementation. Ashwajit Singh's advisory firm set out to correct that

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#### Ashwajit Singh/ Forbes India

Policies in India are high on intent but low on implementation. Ashwajit Singh's advisory firm set out to correct that

#### Ashwajit Singh

**Age:** 51

Designation: Managing director of IPE Global Inflection Point: The stint at LSE where I received international exposure to other developed and developing economies

combined with an era of financial and government reforms, which included decentralisation, governance and social sector reforms in India in the 1990s

Fifteen years ago, I was sitting with some alumni of LSE (London School of Economics) and we were discussing areas that need expertise in the time to come. And one such area where we felt there was a huge gap in terms of governance and policy framework is the development sector.

There are many international consultants, like the McKinseys and Bains of the world, who work with the government at the top end to frame policies. At the other end of the spectrum are numerous NGOs which work at the grassroots level, but few of them have managerial expertise. As a result, there is often a total disconnect between policy and implementation. So we wanted to provide end-to-end expertise and consultancy: Right from formulating policies to actually handholding and implementing them.

### OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

With the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments [enforced] in 1993, whereby the government decided to devolve powers down the line to state and local governments, there was a huge demand for such advisory services. We registered ourselves in December 1998 and in the first two or three years, we were just watching the space. Even the government took time to look at devolving and implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in a proper manner.

We really got active around early 2000. We started out with just five people but as assignments came in, we started expanding; today we are 500-plus people, along with part-time consultants, working full time in 25 countries.

The risk was that I was getting into an untested [and] untried area where not many focussed consultancy firms existed. Even those which were there were foreign consultants because we started at a time when foreign consultants were still considered better.

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