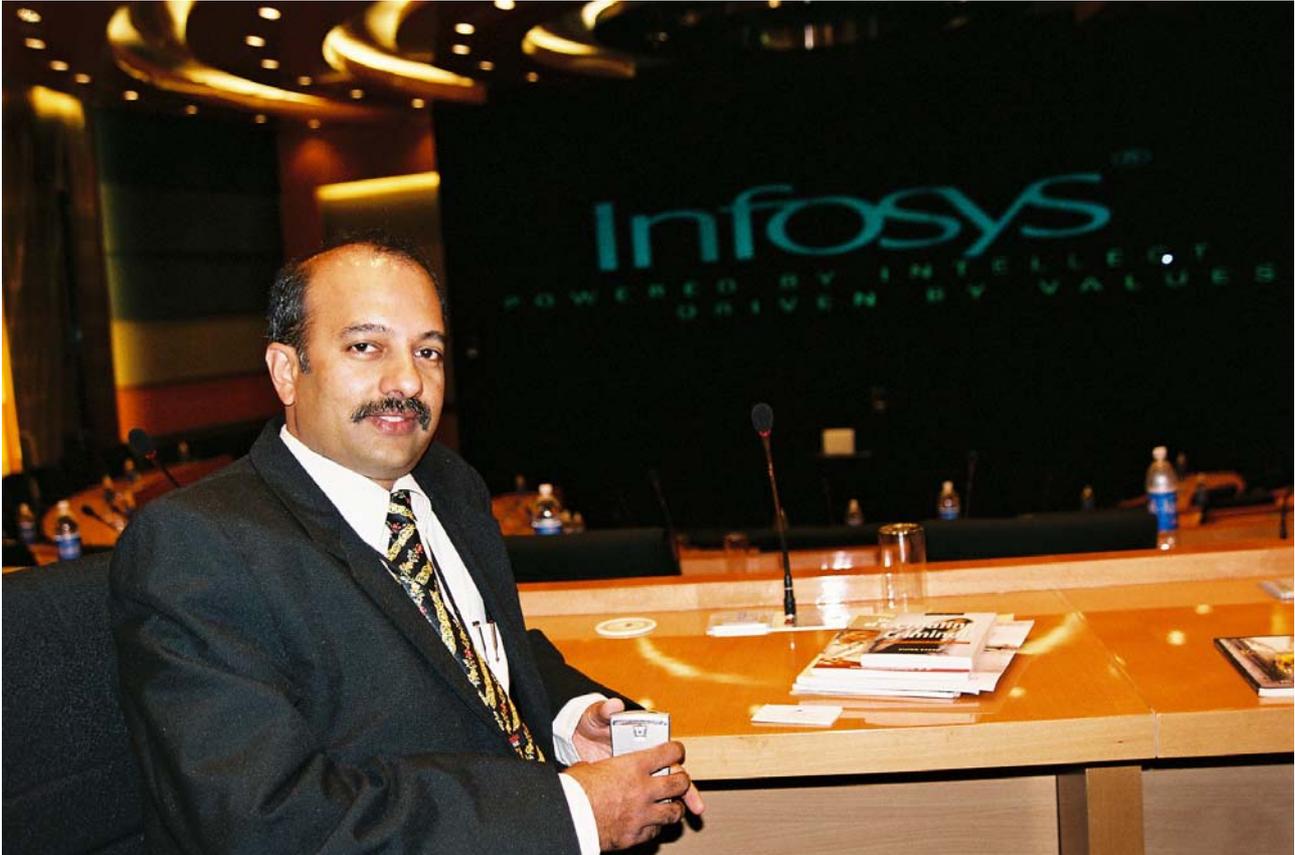Interview 8
IT consultant

Vinay S Rao, Infosys

1. What do you think about the new wealth in India?

The hype is everywhere. Posters with 'It's time to fly' are all over Bangalore. Our economy is growing at the same rate as China's, about 10% a year, and companies like Infosys are driving it. People are no longer talking about the future of India. The future is India! We're like a volcano. We've been simmering for years now, and the explosion is going to happen this century, and sooner rather than later.

Infosys is the leader of India's IT industry. I've seen the company grow from 300 people to 70,000 worldwide. We started in 1981 when no-one had heard about India except for the poverty. Now that's changed. We're on the global map. We mainly work in Business Process Outsourcing. We're sorting out ways of dealing with credit-card fraud, the back-end technologies for Tesco home deliveries, and cheaper ATM charges.

I feel elated when I see someone pushing a hand-cart and talking on a cell-phone. Prosperity is spreading; it's true. This backward image of India is no longer right.

2. What can the world learn from India?
The world can see how we are growing and taking the best from other cultures. I've lived in the US and Europe, in Egypt, the Caribbean, and Japan. The kind of exposure I get keeps me aware and global.

Cooking pasta is no longer a novelty in my house. I experiment with things and integrate them into my life. Professionally, I've also been exposed to new business models. The way you work with the Japanese is very different to the way you work with the French.

The world can also see how we deal with poverty. Our staff employ drivers, cooks, cleaners, laundry washers. We're bringing India's poor into the global economy this way. When 800 million people struggle to get employment and education we're more than a drop in the ocean.
Globalisation is the only way to tackle poverty. Bangalore can show how India can work with the world to do this. Infosys is always open to new ideas, always experimenting.