



Born in 1960. **Gautam Thapar** was educated at the Doon School in India, and studied chemical engineering in the U.S.A.

Upon returning to India, he worked as a factory assistant in one of his family-owned manufacturing companies. He rose steadily and steered the organisation through a strategic and visionary turnaround. Gautam became Group Chairman in 2006, and the conglomerate was rebranded as Avantha in 2007.

With a global footprint in over 10 countries, Avantha today has business interests in diverse areas, including pulp & paper, power transmission & distribution equipment and services, food processing, farm forestry, chemicals, energy, infrastructure, information technology (IT) and IT-enabled services.

Gautam passionately promotes education, leadership development and sports. He is also President of Thapar University, Chairman of The Aspen Institute India, President of All India Management Association (AIMA), and President of the Professional Golf Tour of India.

One of India's youngest and brightest global business leaders, Gautam received the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Manufacturing in 2008.