



**25TH INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS
IASSI ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
25-28 October 2026 | Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar

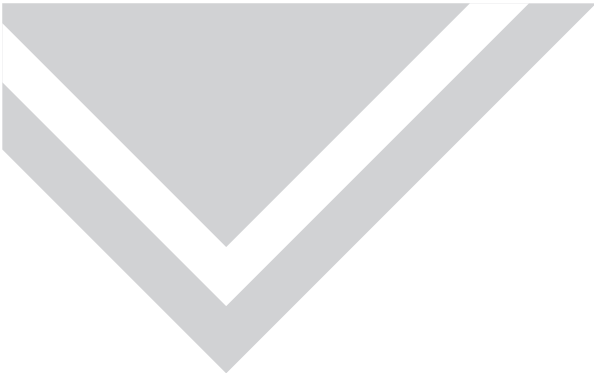
PLENARY PANELS
*Concept Notes and Brief Bios
of the Resource Persons*

Organised by



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UNIVERSITY

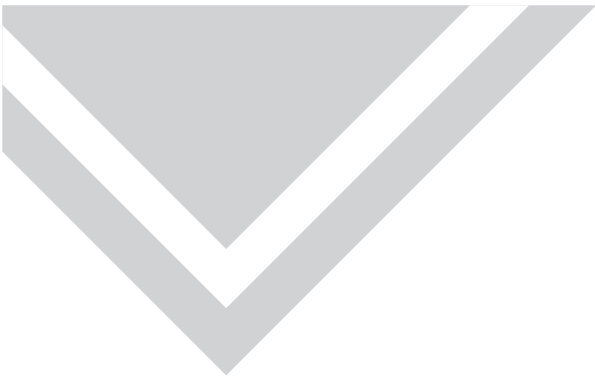




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CONCEPT NOTE



Symposium on Databases and Research Tools: Emerging Trends and Issues

Social science research in India is undergoing a significant transformation. Large-scale surveys such as the NSS, PLFS, NFHS and the Census, along with administrative records, geospatial layers and, increasingly, digital trace and platform data, have widened the range of questions scholars can ask. At the same time, open-source software, reproducible workflows and AI-assisted tools are changing how data is cleaned, analysed, visualised and communicated. For researchers, particularly early-career scholars and those in regional institutions, these developments offer real opportunity, but they also raise the challenge of knowing which resources to choose, how to access them, and how to use them well.

Access to data remains uneven, and many valuable databases are underused because of fragmented documentation, shifting definitions, limited linkage across sources and delays in release. New tools bring their own concerns, including data privacy, informed consent, algorithmic bias, licensing restrictions and the reliability of machine-generated outputs. Questions of open access, data sharing and reproducibility are now central to the credibility of social science research.

This symposium seeks to bring together data producers, practitioners and researchers to review major national and international databases, introduce emerging tools for data management, text and spatial analytics, and examine issues of data quality, comparability and ethics. Through presentations and practical demonstrations, it will also strengthen research capacity across the IASSI community.

Participants are expected to gain greater awareness of available resources, practical familiarity with selected tools, and a shared set of recommendations for improving data access and research practice in the social sciences.

AGENDA

Sunday 25 October 2026

14:00 – 16:00 hrs	:	PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT <i>Symposium on Databases and Research Tools – Emerging Trends and Issues</i> Venue: Vishwamitralaya
Chair	:	Saurabh Garg, IAS Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India

- Panelists : **Ravindra H. Dholakia**
Former Professor
Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
- : **S. Madheswaran**
Advisor, Jain University, Bengaluru and Former
Professor and Director, Institute for Social and
Economic Change, Bengaluru
- : **S. K. Mohanty**
Professor, Nalanda University
- : **G. C. Manna**
Professor, Institute for Human Development
New Delhi
- : **Udaya Shankar Mishra**
Professor & Head, International Institute for Population
Sciences, Mumbai



Digital Futures: Technology, Society and Well-Being in a Changing World

Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, digital platforms, big data and automation are reconfiguring how societies organise labour, deliver services, exercise power and produce meaning. These technologies are not neutral instruments of progress; they are embedded in political economies that determine who gains from digitalisation and who is left further behind. India's experience, from digital public infrastructure and fintech to platform-mediated work, shows both the promise of innovation and growth and the emergence of new forms of exclusion, surveillance and precarity.

This plenary invites critical inquiry into how technological change intersects with existing inequalities of caste, class, gender, disability and geography, with particular attention to marginalised communities, women, persons with disabilities and populations across the Global South. Questions include the impact of automation on informal workers, the reshaping of labour relations and income security through gig work in rapidly urbanising cities, and the ways in which algorithmic systems in welfare and public

services may reproduce or amplify social inequalities. Equally important are the role of digital financial services in inclusion and the contribution of community-based digital literacy to meaningful participation.

The session will also examine wider questions of justice, rights and governance in digital spaces, including surveillance and civil liberties, the influence of social media on public discourse and democratic participation, the design of AI governance frameworks that reflect non-Western values and priorities, and the regulation of platforms in the Global South. By bringing interdisciplinary perspectives together, the plenary seeks insights for a digital future that is inclusive, accountable and supportive of human well-being.

AGENDA

Sunday 25 October 2026

- 18:50 – 20:30 : **PLENARY PANEL 1**
- Digital Futures: Technology, Society and Well-Being in a Changing World*
Venue: Vishwamitralaya
- Chair : **Deepak Mishra**
Distinguished Visiting Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi
- Keynote Address : **Shivkumar Kalyanaraman**
Chief Executive Officer, Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Ministry of Science and Technology Government of India
- Panelists : **Sujit Kumar**
Chief Economist, National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development
- : **Ram Manohar Singh**
Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
- : **Chandra S. Nuthalapati**
Professor, Nalanda University

Regions, Resources and Development: Comparative Perspectives from Indian States

Regional disparities continue to define India's development story, rooted in differences in resource endowments, ecological conditions, institutional capacity and historical trajectories. Resources do not translate into development in any simple way: in several cases, regions rich in minerals, forests or water experience uneven growth, ecological stress and distributive conflict. This raises critical questions about how political economy dynamics, governance structures and policy choices mediate the conversion of resources into inclusive development.

At the same time, spatial inequalities are reinforced by variations in infrastructure, market access and state capacity, producing divergent pathways of structural transformation across states. Understanding these differences requires moving beyond aggregate indicators to examine the interplay between geography, institutions and history.

This plenary adopts a comparative lens on Indian states to identify the factors that explain variation in growth, human development and structural transformation, and to ask how regional contexts shape trajectories of economic and social change. It will consider the conditions under which natural resource endowments contribute to inclusive and sustainable growth, the influence of location, connectivity and ecological conditions on access to opportunities, and the way institutional capacity and quality of governance shape resource management.

The session will also examine the role of public policy, regional development programmes and fiscal transfers in addressing inter-state disparities, the influence of fiscal federalism on regional equity, the persistence of historical legacies, and the reasons for differing patterns of sectoral transformation and industrialisation. It aims to draw lessons from comparative state-level experience to inform more inclusive and context-sensitive development strategies.

AGENDA

Monday 26 October 2026

9.00 am – 10.30 hrs : **PLENARY PANEL 2**
***Regions, Resources and Development: Comparative
Perspectives from Indian States***
Venue: Vishwamitralaya

- Chair : **Saikat Sinha Roy**
Professor and Former Head, Jadavpur University
Kolkata, West Bengal
- Keynote Address : **Sudipto Mundle**
Chairman, Centre for Development Studies
Thiruvananthapuram
- Panelists : **Philippe Cadène**
Professor, Université Paris Cité, France
- : **Pinaki Chakraborty**
Visiting Distinguished Professor, National Institute of
Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi
- : **Seeta Prabhu**
Former Tata Chair Professor, Tata Institute of Social
Sciences, Mumbai and Former Head, Human Development
Resource Centre, United Nations Development Programme
(UNDP)



Special Panel on Indian Methodologies for Issues before Social Sciences

How do social scientists identify a research problem, decide what constitutes evidence and arrive at an explanation? These choices shape the knowledge we produce and its relevance to society. Yet the paradigms that govern these choices, with their concepts, categories, units of analysis and measures, emerged largely from Western historical experience and were then treated as universal. Digitalisation, climate change, mobility, inequality and changing relationships among states, markets, communities and nature demand approaches that capture interaction, local variation, historical change and lived experience. They also require reflection on whose experiences remain unmeasured and whether prevailing categories adequately represent India's social, linguistic, cultural and ecological diversity.

Methodological renewal involves more than the availability of new data or analytical tools. It calls for new questions, concepts, variables and ways of reasoning about social relationships. Borrowed categories travel poorly: where context differs, they can render realities invisible. This panel makes the case for an alternative grounding of research

methodologies in the social sciences and humanities, rooted in India's distinct historical and cultural experience and localised variables. The objective is to develop approaches that are locally grounded, analytically rigorous and capable of contributing to international social science.

1. Beyond GDP: New Indicators, New Datasets

The GDP debate shows the argument most clearly. GDP records market transactions; it omits unpaid care, ecological depletion, distribution and dignity, and can count harms as gains. The Stiglitz–Sen–Fitoussi Commission and well-being frameworks show that better measurement needs new concepts, not merely better estimates. A broader view of progress must capture dignity, agency, time autonomy, social connectedness, cultural continuity and collective resilience. Such indicators demand new datasets: time-use surveys, community-generated data and disaggregated evidence, tested for reliability and comparability across languages and groups. Indian concepts such as *sarvodaya* (well-being of all) and *lokasangraha* (collective welfare) can be starting points, provided their analytical value is established through explicit propositions and critical examination.

2. The Decolonial Turn Across Disciplines

The same move is visible elsewhere. In history, there have been attempts to recover the lost frames of reference by reading colonial archives against the grain. In archaeology, colonial practice privileged monuments and texts; community and landscape approaches now treat living practice, oral tradition and non-monumental sites as evidence. In sociology, questions have been raised on the universality of categories developed elsewhere. Each case pairs a new conceptual grounding with new sources and methods.

3. Integrated Designs and Rigour

Complex problems call for combining methods, such as longitudinal and comparative research, ethnography, participatory inquiry and geospatial analysis, as the question demands. Internal trade illustrates this: transaction and transport records, local-market surveys and historical evidence together reveal informal flows and production networks that official statistics miss. Indian traditions of reasoning and debate can inform reflection on observation, inference, comparison and testimony. Their contemporary application should make clear how a concept changes research design, what evidence would support an explanation and what findings would require its revision. Ethical practice is integral to methodological quality. Openness to scrutiny and replication enables innovative approaches to become cumulative contributions to knowledge.

Way Forward

The central questions are how Indian knowledge can help reformulate research problems; which new variables and combinations of methods can capture overlooked realities; and

how locally meaningful approaches can retain comparability and analytical rigour. The panel will also ask which new datasets are needed and how collaborative studies and capacity building can sustain them.

AGENDA

Monday 26 October 2026

11.00-12.30 : **PLENARY PANEL 3**
Special Panel on Indian Methodologies for Issues Before Social Sciences

Venue: Vishwamitralaya

Chair : **Sachin Chaturvedi**
 Chairman, IASSI and Vice-Chancellor, Nalanda University

Panelists : **S. Gurumurthy**
 Chairman, Vivekananda International Foundation and
 Editor, Thuglak

Saurabh Garg, IAS
 Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme
 Implementation, Government of India

Ravindra H. Dholakia
 Former Professor
 Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

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Global Goals Beyond 2030

As the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals approaches, it is necessary to look beyond a narrow tally of targets achieved and to consider the structural limitations of the current global development framework. The SDGs have offered a shared normative agenda, but progress has been uneven, and persistent inequalities, climate vulnerabilities and institutional constraints have weakened their transformative potential. These challenges call for deeper reflection on the assumptions, priorities and governance structures that underpin global development efforts, at a time when climate

change, technological disruption and shifting geopolitical alignments are reshaping the context in which goals are pursued.

This plenary will review the major achievements and continuing challenges in implementing the SDGs across regions, and ask how and why progress has varied across countries, sectors and population groups. It will examine why inequality-related goals have advanced unevenly, and how intersecting inequalities of gender, class and geography shape the effectiveness of SDG interventions. It will also ask to what extent the framework incorporates environmental justice and social equity.

Looking ahead, the session will consider the principles that should guide a development framework beyond 2030, how future agendas can better address inequality, inclusion and sustainability, and how climate change, technology and geopolitics are likely to influence priorities and international cooperation. Attention will be given to strengthening global governance mechanisms, the role of Global South countries in shaping the post-2030 agenda, and the lessons from SDG implementation for future strategies and institutional arrangements.

AGENDA

Monday 26 October 2026

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- 17:00 – 19:00 : **PLENARY PANEL 4**
Global Goals Beyond 2030
Venue: Vishwamitralaya
- Chair : **Sachin Chaturvedi**
Chairman, IASSI and Vice-Chancellor, Nalanda University
- Keynote Address : **Mikiko Tanaka**
Director and Head, United Nations ESCAP Subregional
Office for South and South-West Asia, New Delhi
- Panelists : **Pami Dua**
Senior Professor of Economics and Former Director, Delhi
School of Economics; Member, Economic Advisory Council
to the Prime Minister. EAC-PM
- : **Arjan de Haan**
Senior Program Specialist, Climate Adaptation and
Resilience, International Development Research Centre
(IDRC), Canada

- : **Jyoti Chandiramani**
Director, Symbiosis School of Economics and Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Symbiosis International (Deemed) University, Pune
- : **P. K. Anand, IAS Retd.**
Centre for Studies in Development and Sustainability (CSDS), Nalanda University and Former Senior Advisor NITI Aayog, Government of India



Health and Nutrition in India's Development

India has one of the world's most extensive architectures of social provisioning, including schemes such as PM POSHAN, the Integrated Child Development Services, PM-JAY and the National Social Assistance Programme. Yet the country continues to record deficits in learning outcomes, nutritional status and access to universal healthcare. The persistence of these gaps is not incidental. It reflects deep structural inequalities rooted in caste, gender, geography and class, together with the chronic difficulty of translating policy into effective delivery on the ground.

This plenary seeks to understand the dynamics of this implementation gap through rigorous analysis of programme design, political economy, local governance and community-level processes. Participants are invited to assess critically the effectiveness of public welfare programmes, to examine patterns of inclusion and exclusion, and to explore how data systems, frontline institutions and participatory approaches can improve outcomes for India's most vulnerable populations.

Key questions include how intersecting inequalities affect awareness, access and use of social protection entitlements in rural and tribal communities, and how infrastructure deficits, teacher accountability and household poverty shape educational achievement. The session will review evidence on cash and direct transfers and child nutrition, the role of ASHAs and Anganwadi workers in maternal, neonatal and child health, the inclusion and exclusion effects of Aadhaar-linked systems, the working of the National Food Security Act, and the capacity of Gram Panchayats. It will also consider barriers to universal health coverage, the interaction of public and private providers, and lessons from state-level innovations that may inform nationally scalable reforms.

AGENDA

Tuesday 27 October 2026

- 9:00 – 10:30 hrs : **PLENARY PANEL 5**
Health and Nutrition in India's Development
Venue: Vishwamitralaya
- Chair : **Achin Chakraborty**
Visiting Professor, Centre of Excellence in Public Policy
Law and Governance, IIT Kharagpur and Honorary
Professor, Institute for Human Development, Ranchi;
Former Professor of Economics and Former Director,
Institute of Development Studies Kolkata
- Keynote Address : **Sanjay Zodpey**
President, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and
Pro-Chancellor, PHFI Institute of Public Health Sciences
Delhi
- Panelists : **Ashish Pandey**
Professor, Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
- : **Simantini Mukhopadhyay**
Associate Professor, Department of Economics and
Politics, Visva Bharti, Shanti Niketan, West Bengal
- : **Swati Dutta**
Senior Fellow, IHD
- : **Arijita Dutta**
Professor in Economics, University of Calcutta

Culture and Development

The relationship between culture and development has long been contested, intellectually and politically. Earlier modernisation paradigms often treated culture as an obstacle to be overcome. Contemporary scholarship increasingly recognises cultural values, identities, practices and indigenous knowledge systems as forces that actively shape development pathways and outcomes, although this recognition remains uneven. In practice, interventions still encounter tensions between externally designed frameworks and locally embedded cultural logics, raising enduring questions of legitimacy, representation and the sustainability of change.

Institutions, both formal and informal, mediate these encounters. They can enable culturally resonant development or reinforce the marginalisation of non-Western epistemologies. This plenary invites participants to examine the cultural dimensions of governance, social norms, community mobilisation and contestations over heritage, and to ask how community councils, religious bodies and traditional governance structures enable or obstruct pro-poor interventions.

Questions of particular interest include how social norms shape women's agency and participation in rural communities, how language policy in education affirms or erodes cultural identity and mother-tongue learning, and what the short- and long-term consequences of displacement are. The session will also consider tensions between heritage preservation and economic imperatives in urbanising or resource-extractive regions, the contribution of indigenous knowledge to sustainable resource management, and the influence of intercultural dialogue and contestation on the equitable distribution of public goods in India.

The plenary will also reflect on how dominant international development narratives may displace local identities, how postcolonial legacies shape development assistance, and how organisations can design culturally sensitive programmes that advance equity and rights-based goals while respecting indigenous knowledge.

AGENDA

Tuesday 27 October 2026

10:35 – 12:00 : **PLENARY PANEL 6**
Culture and Development
Venue: Vishwamitralaya

- Chair : **Asanga Tilakaratne**
Emeritus Professor of Buddhist Studies
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Keynote Address : **Badri Narayan Tiwari**
Vice-Chancellor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai
- Panelists : **P. Kanagasabapathi**
Secretary and Trustee of the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Research Foundation, New Delhi
- : **Jyoti Verma**
Former Professor of Psychology, Patna University
- : **Dipankar Sengupta**
Professor, Department of Economics, University of Jammu
- : **David Akombo**
Professor of Music Education and Interdisciplinary
Musicology and Dean, Faculty of Culture, Creative and
Performing Arts, The University of the West Indies



Education and Knowledge Systems

Education, understood beyond formal schooling, embraces a plurality of knowledge systems, including indigenous, traditional and experiential forms, through which individuals and communities interpret, navigate and sustain their social and economic worlds. Dominant education systems have historically privileged formal, standardised knowledge, often sidelining community-based epistemologies and limiting their role in shaping development outcomes and well-being. This raises important questions about inclusion, relevance and the relationship between knowledge and lived realities. At the same time, digitalisation and changing labour markets are reshaping knowledge hierarchies, access and the value attached to different forms of learning.

This plenary invites participants to examine how education relates to wider dimensions of individual and collective well-being, what the limits of formal systems are in meeting diverse learning needs, and how indigenous and local traditions contribute to livelihoods, resilience and community well-being. It will consider the challenges of recognising and

integrating diverse knowledge systems within formal frameworks while preserving their distinctiveness and relevance, and the part played by communities and local institutions in sustaining and transmitting such knowledge.

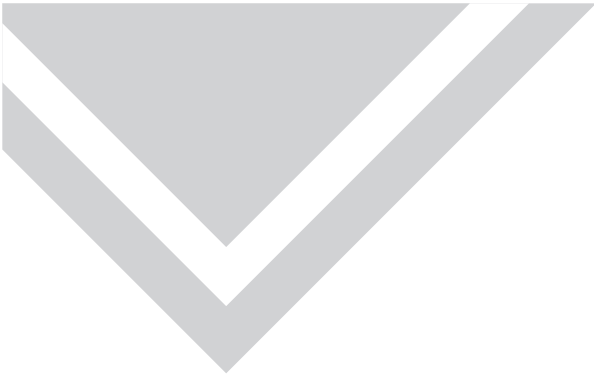
The session will also assess how digitalisation is transforming access to knowledge, learning processes and educational equity, and what changing labour market dynamics imply for the design of education systems. Drawing on research and practice, it seeks policy approaches that make education more inclusive and responsive to diverse socio-economic contexts and that align it with well-being, livelihoods and long-term development goals. Nalanda's heritage as a centre of learning makes it a fitting setting for this discussion.

AGENDA

Tuesday 27 October 2026

15:00 – 16:30	:	PLENARY PANEL 7 <i>Education and Knowledge Systems</i> Venue: Vishwamitralaya
Chair	:	S. R. Hashim Former Member Secretary, erstwhile Planning Commission and Former Chairman, Union Public Service Commission
Keynote Address	:	Rukmini Banerji Senior Advisor, Pratham Education Foundation
Panelists	:	D. Venkat Rao Professor and Dean, Nalanda University
	:	R. Clive Landis Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor of Cardiovascular Research, The University of the West Indies
	:	Balaji Parthasarathy Former Professor, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore
	:	Ganti S. Murthy Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore
Special Remarks	:	Brigadier Sushil Bhasin Military-Inspired Leadership Coach





BRIEF BIOS OF THE RESOURCE PERSONS





Achin Chakraborty

Visiting Professor, Centre of Excellence in Public Policy Law and Governance, IIT Kharagpur and Honorary Professor, Institute for Human Development, Ranchi; Former Professor of Economics and Former Director, Institute of Development Studies Kolkata

Achin Chakraborty is currently Visiting Professor at IIT Kharagpur and Honorary Professor at Institute for Human development, Ranchi. He was a professor and director at the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata. His research interests are development economics, poverty, inequality and human development. He has edited several books and published extensively in journals like EPW, Journal of Quantitative Economics, etc.



Arjan de Haan

Senior Program Specialist, Climate Adaptation and Resilience, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada

Dr. Arjan de Haan is Senior Program Specialist for Climate Adaptation and Resilience at Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). A distinguished development scholar and policy expert, he has over three decades of experience in research and policy on poverty, inequality, migration, social protection, and inclusive development. He has held positions at the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, and the University of Sussex, and has published extensively on the social dimensions of development. At IDRC, he leads research and policy partnerships across Asia and globally under the UK-Canada CLARE programme. His current work examines how climate adaptation, finance, and governance can advance equitable and resilient development pathways, with particular attention to research approaches that support inclusive responses to accelerating environmental change.



Arijita Dutta

Professor in Economics, University of Calcutta

Dr. Arijita Dutta is Professor of Economics at the University of Calcutta and co-editor of its in-house journal, *Arthaniti*. She completed her master's degree at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and earned her Ph.D. from the University of Calcutta. Her research interests include health economics, quantitative development economics, and econometrics. She has published extensively in national and international journals and has completed several research projects. Dr. Dutta has contributed to health policymaking in West Bengal through research and policy documents on healthcare. She has taught at several European universities and was a visiting researcher at UNU-MERIT, Maastricht, the Netherlands, in 2014, strengthening her international academic engagement and research collaborations.



Asanga Tilakaratne

Emeritus Professor of Buddhist Studies, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Prof. Asanga Tilakaratne is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Nalanda University, where he joined the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religion in 2020. He previously served as Senior Professor and Chair of Pāli and Buddhist Studies and founded the Department of Buddhist Studies at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. He earned his doctorate in Comparative Philosophy from the University of Hawai'i, focusing on religious experience, language, and Nirvana in early Buddhism. His research spans Buddhist philosophy and logic, the Pāli Canon, Indian and Western philosophy, epistemology, and philosophy of religion. An accomplished scholar, he has authored 20 books and published extensively in English and Sinhala. His recent work explores Buddhist approaches to justice, equality, interreligious understanding, and contemporary social issues.



Ashish Pandey

Professor, Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

Prof. Ashish Pandey is Professor at the Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. His research focuses on organisational behaviour, human resource management, mindfulness and yoga, workplace spirituality, and the interface between business and society. His work examines the role of mindfulness in ethical decision-making, positive psychological outcomes, team learning, and organisational development. He has published extensively in reputed academic journals, including the *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Business Ethics: A European Review*, and *Global Business Review*. Prof. Pandey has received several academic distinctions, including recognition for his research on workplace spirituality and organisational development. Alongside teaching and research, he designs leadership development and organisational change programmes for businesses, government agencies, and educational institutions, integrating Indian wisdom traditions, positive psychology, and experiential learning approaches.

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Badri Narayan Tiwari

Vice-Chancellor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Prof. Badri Narayan Tiwari is a distinguished social historian, cultural anthropologist, and public intellectual serving as Vice Chancellor of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). Educated at the University of Allahabad, he previously served as a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Director of the G.B. Pant Social Science Institute. His research explores marginalised communities, subaltern politics, and the intersections of power and culture. He has authored several acclaimed books, including *Republic of Hindutva* and *Kanshiram: Leader of the Dalits*. Alongside his academic contributions, Prof. Tiwari is an acclaimed Hindi poet. He received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2022 for his poetry collection *Tumdi Ke Shabd* and the Kanhaiya Lal Sethia Award for Poetry in 2025.



Balaji Parthasarathy

FormeWr Professor, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore

Dr. Balaji Parthasarathy served as Professor at the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-Bangalore) from 2000 to 2026. He was the institute's first Dean (Faculty) and a co-founder of its Centre for Information Technology and Public Policy. His research interests span economic geography, economic sociology, technological change, innovation, globalisation, and social transformation, particularly in disadvantaged contexts. His publications examine diverse themes, including the organisation of production in the global software industry, the political economy of e-governance, e-waste, and social innovation. His current research focuses on the opportunities and constraints associated with gig work in the digital platform economy and the development of Digital Public Infrastructure. Through his interdisciplinary scholarship, he contributes to understanding how technological and economic transformations shape labour markets, institutions, and social inequalities.

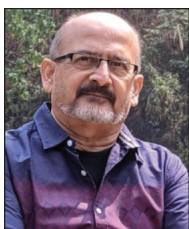
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Chandra S. Nuthalapati

Professor of Economics, Nalanda University

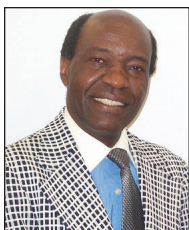
Professor Chandra S. Nuthalapati is Professor of Economics at Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar. A distinguished economist, his work spans agricultural development, food systems transformation, digital economy, technology adoption, biotechnology policy, nutrition-sensitive food systems, rural livelihoods and natural resource use. Over a career of more than two decades, he has combined academic excellence, policy engagement and institutional leadership. He previously served as Visiting Professor at Cornell University and as Professor and Head of the *Agricultural Economics* Research Unit at the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi. A Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellow at Cornell University, his publications appear in leading international journals, including *World Development*, *Agricultural Economics* and *Journal of Cleaner Production*.



D. Venkat Rao

Professor and Dean, Nalanda University, Rajgir

Prof. D. Venkat Rao is Dean of the School of Languages and Literature/ Humanities at Nalanda University, Rajgir. He earned his doctorate from the University of Kent at Canterbury and held prestigious Rockefeller and Fulbright postdoctoral fellowships at leading US universities, including the University of Chicago, UC Berkeley, and the University of Washington. Previously, he was Professor at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, and has lectured extensively in India and internationally. An accomplished author and translator in English and Telugu, he edits Routledge's *Critical Humanities Across Cultures* book series. His major publications include *Envisioning Voice and the Aphasic Ears* (2025) and *India, Europe and the Question of Cultural Difference* (2021). His research explores critical humanities, cultural memory, Indian reflective traditions, comparative thought, and translation studies.



David Akombo

Professor of Music Education and Interdisciplinary Musicology and Dean, Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts, The University of the West Indies

Professor David O. Akombo is Dean of the Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, where he serves as Professor of Music Education and Interdisciplinary Musicology. An internationally engaged scholar, his research spans ethnomusicology, music pedagogy, and music, health, and well-being. His interdisciplinary work explores music's cognitive, emotional, and sociocultural significance, highlighting its role in educational innovation, cultural identity, and social transformation. His scholarship examines indigenous musical traditions, global cultural exchange, and applied musical practices. Professor Akombo also serves as Co-Principal Investigator of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada-funded project *I Dream A World: The Arts as a Catalyst for Social Change*, which explores how artistic and Afrofuturist approaches empower young people to envision more equitable futures.



Deepak Mishra

Distinguished Visiting Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi

Dr. Deepak Mishra advises the World Bank's *World Development Report 2026* on AI for Development. He previously served as Director and Chief Executive of ICRIER. During over two decades at the World Bank, he worked across more than 15 countries in Africa, South Asia and East Asia and co-directed the *World Development Report 2016: Digital Dividends*. His work explores technology and development, especially digital transformation, jobs and growth. In India, he has served on committees linked to the Ministries of Finance, Commerce and Statistics, NITI Aayog and the G20 Independent Expert Group established during India's G20 presidency. He writes for *Business Standard* and *The Economic Times*. He holds an M.A. from the Delhi School of Economics and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland.

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Dipankar Sengupta

Professor, Department of Economics, University of Jammu

Professor Dipankar Sengupta is a Professor of Economics at the University of Jammu, with research interests spanning economic development, public policy, governance, and regional economic issues. He has contributed to academic and policy debates through his research and writings on India's political economy and development challenges. He has also written for the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), examining contemporary issues related to domestic politics, governance, and economic development. His commentary explores the relationship between public policy, institutional performance, and socio-economic outcomes, with particular attention to issues affecting India. Through his academic work and policy contributions, Prof. Sengupta engages with questions central to inclusive development and governance. His contributions bridge university-based research and wider public discourse, bringing economic analysis to contemporary policy debates.

**G. C. Manna**

Professor, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi

Dr. G. C. Manna is Professor at the Institute for Human Development and formerly served as Director General of the Central Statistics Office and the National Sample Survey Office. He has held several positions in the Government of India and contributed to official and labour statistics through government and international committees. He chaired the Technical Advisory Group on the Occupational Wage Survey, constituted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, and the Technical Advisory Committee on the Coverage Evaluation Survey, constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. He served on working groups for the 75th, 76th and 77th National Sample Survey rounds and the Labour Bureau's Expert Group on the Quarterly Employment Survey. He has more than 40 publications to his credit.

**Ganti S. Murthy**

Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Indore

Professor Ganti S. Murthy is a distinguished academic and researcher serving as Professor of Biosciences and Bioengineering and Head of the Centre for Scientific Indian Knowledge Systems at IIT Indore. He also serves as National Coordinator of the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Division under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. He completed his B.Tech. from NERIST in 2001 with a Gold Medal, followed by an M.Tech. from IIT Kharagpur in 2003 and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2006. Before joining IIT Indore, he was a tenured Professor at Oregon State University, where he established the Sustainable Technologies Laboratory. His research focuses on sustainable bioprocessing, biofuel production, techno-economic and life-cycle assessments, and agroecological systems engineering.



Jyoti Chandiramani

Director, Symbiosis School of Economics and Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Professor Jyoti Chandiramani is Director of the Symbiosis School of Economics and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune, positions she has held since 2010. An urban economist with over four decades of teaching and research experience, her expertise spans urban economic development, mobility, infrastructure, transport, and poverty. Her research also examines international development cooperation, from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals. Her case study on strengthening urban transport resilience in Pune featured in the *World Cities Report 2024*. She has led research projects for NABARD, UNICEF-NIUA, and ITDP, and served on NITI Aayog's working group on City Governance and Smart Cities. She is also a Board member of the Forum for International Development Cooperation at RIS, New Delhi.

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Jyoti Verma

Former Professor of Psychology, Patna University

Dr. Jyoti Verma is a distinguished academic and cross-cultural psychologist who served as Professor of Psychology at Patna University. She completed her postgraduate and doctoral studies at Patna University and has extensive experience in higher education, research methodology, social psychology, and Organisational Behaviour. Throughout her career, she has contributed to both university teaching and management education, teaching MBA students at Patna University and serving as faculty at the Chandragupta Institute of Management Patna (CIMP). Her research focuses on cross-cultural psychology, and she serves as a consulting editor for international academic journals. She has participated in several European research initiatives as an Indian research partner. Beyond academia, Dr. Verma undertakes corporate consultancy, conducts training for bank employees, and designs intercultural communication programmes to strengthen collaboration in Indo-Polish business environments.


Mikiko Tanaka

Director and Head, United Nations ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, New Delhi

Ms. Mikiko Tanaka has led the UN ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia in New Delhi since 2 May 2022. Her work focuses on sustainable development, regional cooperation and the 2030 Agenda. She brings nearly three decades of international development experience, including over 25 years in the UN system. From 2016 to 2021, she was UN Resident Coordinator in Guyana, leading development initiatives and coordinating responses to COVID-19, flooding and other regional challenges. Before joining the UN, she worked with CARE International in Thailand and in Japan's financial sector. She holds a Master's in Public Policy and Management from the University of London, a Master's in Rural Development Management from Khon Kaen University, Thailand, and a bachelor's degree from International Christian University, Japan.


P. K. Anand, IAS (Retd.)

Centre for Studies in Development and Sustainability (CSDS), Nalanda University and Former Senior Advisor, NITI Aayog, Government of India

Dr. P. K. Anand, IAS (Retd.), is an economist and former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer with extensive experience in public administration, development policy, and research. He served as a Visiting Fellow at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) for over eight years, contributing to research on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and G20-related T20 policy initiatives. Previously, he worked at NITI Aayog, focusing on development monitoring and evaluation, plan appraisal, international cooperation, and industry. During his IAS career, he served in several Government of India ministries and held senior administrative positions in Rajasthan. His research covers multidimensional poverty, human development, inequality, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, health, and education. He holds PhDs in Economics, master's degrees in Economics and Physics, and an MPhil in Public Administration, for which he received a Gold Medal.



P. Kanagasabapathi

Secretary & Trustee, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, New Delhi

Dr. P. Kanagasabapathi is a distinguished author and researcher known for his India-centric approach to economics, business, and management. His field studies across India explore how culture shapes economic, social, business, and management systems. He has been associated with several universities and research institutions at national and state levels and served as Member and Chairman-in-Charge of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi. Writing in Tamil and English, he authored *Indian Models of Economy, Business and Management*, a pioneering contribution to the indigenisation of education, and *Prosperous India*, which has been translated into several languages. He previously served as President of an agricultural cooperative bank and Director of the Shipping Corporation of India, Mumbai. He is currently Secretary and Trustee of the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, New Delhi.

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Pami Dua

Senior Professor of Economics and Former Director, Delhi School of Economics; Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

Professor Pami Dua is Senior Professor of Economics and former Director of the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. She is currently a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. She also serves on the Governing Council of the Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning and is a Distinguished Fellow at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries. She has held several academic leadership positions at the University of Delhi, including Dean of Academic Activities and Projects and Dean of Research in Humanities and Social Sciences. She served on the Reserve Bank of India's first Monetary Policy Committee and was President of the Indian Econometric Society. With over four decades of teaching experience, her research focuses on time-series econometrics, forecasting, macroeconometrics, and sustainable development.



Philippe Cadène

Professor, Université Paris Cité, France

Professor Philippe Cadène is Emeritus Professor of Geography and Development Studies at Université Paris Cité, France. He headed its School of Geography, History, Economy and Societies from 2019 to 2022 and chaired the Geography Department from 2013 to 2017. He continues research and Ph.D. supervision at CESSMA, the Centre for Social Sciences Studies on African, American and Asian Worlds. His international research examines how social and economic systems adapt to globalisation and its associated crises. His interests include social and economic change, regional development and planning, and entrepreneurial dynamics. His comparative work covers India, Tunisia, Morocco and Greece. Alongside collaborative projects, he pursues theoretical and methodological research in geography and the social sciences, contributing to interdisciplinary understanding of development and regional transformation.



Pinaki Chakraborty

Visiting Distinguished Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi

Professor Pinaki Chakraborty is Visiting Distinguished Professor at NIPFP and Vice-Chairman of the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur. He previously served as NIPFP Director and Professor and Economic Adviser to the Fourteenth Finance Commission. His public-policy roles include the Fifteenth Finance Commission's Advisory Council, Member-Secretary of the National Statistical Commission's Committee on Fiscal Statistics, Chair of Kerala's Public Expenditure Review Committee and membership of the Third Union Territory Finance Commission. He also served UNICEF as Chief of Social Policy and Chief of Field Office for Kerala and Tamil Nadu. His research examines fiscal federalism, decentralisation and state development. He testified before Parliament's Select Committee on the GST Constitution Amendment Bill in 2015 and authored *GST in India: A Simple Tax in a Complex Federal System*.



R. Clive Landis

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor of Cardiovascular Research, The University of the West Indies

Professor Clive Landis is Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies (The UWI) and Professor of Cardiovascular Research. With over three decades of experience, he has combined academic leadership and applied research to advance higher education, public health, and sustainable Caribbean development. He previously served as Pro Vice-Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies, Deputy Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, and Director of the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre. His research and public engagement span health equity, education, social resilience, HIV policy, and climate change. As Chair of The UWI COVID-19 and Zika Task Forces, he played a key role in translating scientific evidence into policy guidance for Caribbean governments and institutions. His work emphasises collaboration, student success, and evidence-informed regional development.

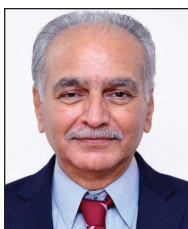
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Ram Manohar Singh

Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee

Dr. Ram Manohar Singh has been Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Roorkee since 2015. He earned a Ph.D. (2013) and M.Phil. in Psychology, Planning and Development (2006) from IIT Bombay, an M.Psy. in Human Resource Development and Management from the University of Allahabad (2004), and a B.Sc. in Physics, Mathematics and Computers (2002). His research interests include social and educational psychology, metacognition, judicial sensitivity and court performance, close relationships, attachment, couple identity in Indian arranged marriages and knowledge management. Selected publications include Couple Identity in Indian Arranged Marriages, An Exploratory Qualitative Analysis of Rape Myths in India, Exploring Court Performance and Developing Its Scale, and Task Difficulty and Knowledge Exploration Among Secondary School Students. His work contributes to understanding behaviour, education, interpersonal relationships and institutional performance.

**Ravindra H. Dholakia**

Former Professor, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

Dr. Ravindra H. Dholakia is an eminent economist who served as Professor at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad from 1985 to 2018, receiving its Most Distinguished Faculty Award in 2017-18. With over 42 years of teaching, research and policy experience, his expertise includes macroeconomic policy, public finance, development, employment, productivity, health, education and economic statistics. He has served on India's Monetary Policy Committee since 2016 and was a member of the Sixth Central Pay Commission. He chaired government committees on financial-sector statistics and sub-national accounts, and advised the World Bank, WHO, UNICEF and UNDP. His publications include 23 books, approximately 47 monographs and more than 140 research papers. His work has contributed to economic policy research and academic institution-building in India.

**Rukmini Banerji**

Senior Advisor, Pratham Education Foundation

Rukmini Banerji is Senior Advisor at Pratham Education Foundation, having recently stepped down after more than a decade as its Chief Executive Officer. Trained as an economist, she completed her undergraduate studies at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, studied at the Delhi School of Economics, and was a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1991 and subsequently worked at the Spencer Foundation before returning to India in 1996 to join Pratham. With extensive field experience, she has worked closely with rural and urban communities and led large-scale partnerships with governments. She also spearheaded Pratham's research and assessment initiatives, including the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), from 2005 to 2014. Originally from Bihar, she is currently based in Delhi and Pune.



S. Gurumurthy

Chairman, Vivekananda International Foundation and Editor, Thuglak

Shri S. Gurumurthy is an Indian journalist, writer, chartered accountant and corporate adviser known for investigative journalism and commentary on economics, finance and public affairs. His reporting has focused on corruption and links between business and government, including investigations into the Bofors controversy. Australian journalist Hamish McDonald discussed his work in Polyester Prince, describing it as a powerful example of investigative journalism. Shri Gurumurthy is recognised for his knowledge of economics, finance and accounts. He serves as visiting faculty at IIT Bombay in economics, finance and management, and as Distinguished Professor of Legal Anthropology at SASTRA University. He is Editor of Thuglak and a co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Vivekananda International Foundation. His professional work spans journalism, financial analysis, corporate advisory and public debate.

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S. K. Mohanty

Professor, Nalanda University, Rajgir

Professor S. K. Mohanty is an economist specialising in international trade, regional economic integration, industrial policy and development economics. Before joining Nalanda University, he was Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, where he contributed to research and policy on India's economic engagement with Asia and the Global South. His teaching encompasses international trade, emerging economies, industrial policy and global economic integration. His research has informed national and international policy discussions, particularly on trade, regional integration and industrial development. At Nalanda University, he brings experience in economic research and policy analysis to the study of relationships between economies, institutions and development pathways in an interconnected world. His work connects national development priorities with changes in the global economy.



S. Madheswaran

Professor, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore

Dr. S. Madheswaran is a development economist and econometrician, serving as Professor and Head of the Centre for Economic Studies and Policy at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru. He previously served as ISEC Director and adviser to the Government of Karnataka, contributing to policy formulation, evaluation, economic surveys, human development reporting and state statistical systems. He has served on central and state committees, including the Karnataka Evaluation Authority and the Ministry of Youth Affairs' committee on the Youth Development Index. His research covers education, labour, health, environmental economics, public policy and applied econometrics, with nearly 120 published papers. He has trained Indian Economic Service and Indian Statistical Service officers and contributed to international capacity-building. His work bridges academic research, public policy and professional training.



S. R. Hashim

Former Member Secretary, erstwhile Planning Commission and Former Chairman, Union Public Service Commission

Professor S. R. Hashim is Chairman of the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, and holds several distinguished leadership positions in research and policy institutions. Over a career spanning nearly five decades, he has served in academia, government, economic administration, and diplomacy. He was Director of the Institute of Economic Growth and the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, Member and Member-Secretary of the Planning Commission, Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, and Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission. His research spans capital formation, poverty, inequality, agriculture, and water resources. He has chaired several national expert groups and commissions, including the Planning Commission's Expert Group on Identification of Urban Poor. His contributions have significantly influenced economic research, development planning, and public policy in India.



Sachin Chaturvedi

Chairman, IASSI and Vice-Chancellor, Nalanda University

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi is Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University and Chairman of IASSI, specialising in development economics, global governance and international cooperation. He previously led RIS, New Delhi, researching development finance, SDGs, South-South cooperation, trade, investment and innovation, particularly in relation to the WTO. He helped establish the Network of Southern Think Tanks, Forum for Indian Development Cooperation and Delhi Process on South-South and Triangular Cooperation. He has published or edited over 22 books, including *The Logic of Sharing: Indian Approach to South-South Cooperation*, and serves on journal editorial boards. His expertise includes innovation systems, biotechnology, biodiversity, intellectual property, indigenous knowledge, food security, trade and standards. He has held visiting positions at Yale, the University of Amsterdam and the German Development Institute, and serves as an Independent Director on the RBI Board.

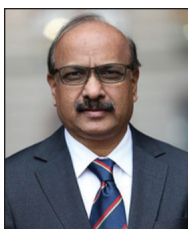
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Saikat Sinha Roy

Professor and Former Head, Department of Economics at Jadavpur University

Professor Saikat Sinha Roy is a distinguished economist and Professor in the Department of Economics at Jadavpur University, Kolkata. His research interests encompass international trade and development, trade policy, applied open-economy macroeconomics, economic inequality, and development economics. His scholarly contributions examine the intersections of globalisation, structural transformation, employment, financial markets, and inclusive economic growth, with particular emphasis on emerging and developing economies. He has published extensively in reputed national and international journals, contributing to contemporary debates on trade reforms, exchange rate dynamics, foreign direct investment, and economic development. His research also explores the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly inequality reduction and inclusive growth. Through his academic research, teaching, and policy-oriented scholarship, Professor Sinha Roy contributes to understanding the evolving challenges of economic development and global integration.



Sanjay Zodpey

President, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and Pro-Chancellor, PHFI Institute of Public Health Sciences, New Delhi

Professor Sanjay Zodpey is President of the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and Pro-Chancellor of the PHFI Institute of Public Health Sciences. He previously served as Vice President–Academics at PHFI and as Founding Director of the Indian Institute of Public Health, Delhi. An internationally renowned epidemiologist, public health scientist, and academic leader, he has held honorary and adjunct professorships at several international universities. He is an Outstanding Professor at the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR). With over 448 publications, his research spans epidemiology, tropical medicine, and public health. His contributions have earned him honorary doctorates from institutions in India and Australia, an Honorary Fellowship from the UK Faculty of Public Health, and the Public Health Education Leadership Award for advancing public health education in the WHO South-East Asia Region.

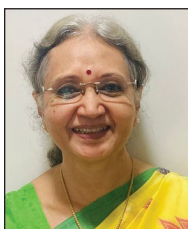
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Saurabh Garg, IAS

Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India

Dr. Saurabh Garg is a 1991-batch Indian Administrative Service officer of the Odisha cadre and Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India. He previously served as Chief Executive Officer of the Unique Identification Authority of India, Secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and Joint Secretary in the Departments of Economic Affairs and Expenditure. His contributions include strengthening Aadhaar, developing the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund, advancing digital payments and Direct Benefit Transfer, and supporting technology-enabled agricultural policies. He has held senior positions in the Government of Odisha and served as an Adviser at the World Bank. He holds a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, an MBA with a gold medal from IIM Ahmedabad, and a B.Tech from IIT Delhi.



Seeta Prabhu

Former Tata Chair Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and Former Head, Human Development Resource Centre, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Prof. K. Seeta Prabhu is a leading exponent of the human development approach, with extensive experience in research, public policy, and academic leadership. She is currently a member of the Editorial Team of the *Journal of Human Development*, the Academic Council of Symbiosis International University, and the Governing Board of the Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow. She served as President of the IASSI Conference in 2024 and Co-Chair of the T20 Task Force on “LiFE, Resilience and Values for Well-Being” in 2023. Earlier, she was Tata Chair Professor at TISS, Director of the Prime Minister’s Rural Development Fellows Scheme, and Senior Advisor at UNDP India. She has authored and edited several books and published widely in leading national and international journals.

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Shivkumar Kalyanaraman

Chief Executive Officer, Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India

Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman is a technologist and research leader whose expertise spans artificial intelligence, energy, R&D and digital transformation. As CEO of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, he works to strengthen India’s research ecosystem, particularly in academia. Previously, he was Chief Technology Officer for Microsoft’s Energy Industry in Asia, leading initiatives across power, utilities, renewables, oil and gas, and mining. He has also held leadership roles at GE Power Conversion and IBM. A former tenured professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA, he combines academic research with industry leadership. His contributions include over 200 peer-reviewed technical papers and more than 35 granted patents. He is an IEEE Fellow, ACM Distinguished Scientist and IBM Master Inventor. An alumnus of IIT Madras and Ohio State University, he holds a B.Tech, M.S., Ph.D. and Executive MBA.



Simantini Mukhopadhyay

Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Politics, Visva Bharti, Shanti Niketan, West Bengal

Dr. Simantini Mukhopadhyay is Associate Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics and Politics at Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan. She previously served as Assistant Professor at the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata. Her research interests include health and nutrition, poverty and inequality, and foundational issues in the capability approach. Her work has appeared in several reputed international journals. She co-edited *Revisiting Inequality: Theoretical and Methodological Advances with Empirical Examples from India* (Routledge, 2024). In 2020, she received the SPANDAN Grant, awarded by IGIDR, Mumbai, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She also held a CICOPS Scholarship at the University of Pavia, Italy, in 2022. Beyond academic research, she writes regularly for popular media and co-authored the children's book *A Star Named Bibha and Other Stories* (HarperCollins, 2024).



Sudipto Mundle

Chairman, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram

Dr. Sudipto Mundle is Chairman of the Board of the Centre for Development Studies, India, and a distinguished economist with extensive experience in research and public policy. He previously served as Emeritus Professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) and held senior positions at the Asian Development Bank, including Director in its Strategy and Policy Department. He was a member of India's Fourteenth Finance Commission and the National Statistical Commission, which he also chaired. He has served as an economic adviser to the Ministry of Finance and held academic appointments at leading institutions. His research spans development economics, fiscal and monetary policy, governance, and macroeconomic modelling. His current work focuses on state finances, public service delivery, village studies, and employment policy. He is President of the Indian Econometric Society.



Sujit Kumar

Chief Economist, National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development

Mr. Sujit Kumar is Chief Economist at the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), where he contributes to building a research-driven knowledge organisation through policy advocacy and industry publications. He brings over 15 years of experience in banking and financial services, spanning economic research, strategy, planning, investor relations, treasury, and executive decision support. He has participated in the Reserve Bank of India's Professional Forecasters and Financial Stability surveys and served on ASSOCHAM's Shadow Monetary Policy Committee, contributing to monetary and macroeconomic policy discussions. A published author, he regularly contributes to India's economic and policy debates, with his views featured in national and international media. He holds a postgraduate degree in Economics from the University of Hyderabad and is an Associate of the Indian Institute of Banking & Finance, Mumbai.

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Brigadier Sushil Bhasin

Military-Inspired Leadership Coach

Brigadier Sushil Bhasin is a distinguished Indian Army veteran, globally recognised leadership coach, motivational speaker, author, and corporate trainer. With 38 years of military service, he brings extensive experience in leadership, strategic thinking, team building, and organisational development. A Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) and two-time TEDx speaker, he has inspired over 150,000 individuals across 650 organisations through his keynote addresses, leadership workshops, and mentoring programmes. His expertise spans leadership development, time management, high-performing teams, emotional intelligence, and organisational transformation.



Swati Dutta

Senior Fellow, Institute for Human Development

Dr. Swati Dutta is a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Human Development (IHD), with over a decade of research experience in food and nutrition security, maternal and child health, multidimensional poverty, financial inclusion, and women's empowerment. She has contributed to research projects supported by UNICEF, the International Labour Organization, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and IFPRI. Her expertise includes quantitative and qualitative research methods, survey design, sampling, and statistical analysis. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Institute for Financial Management and Research, an M.Phil. in Applied Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, and an M.Sc. in Economics from Vidyasagar University, where she received a Gold Medal. Her research has appeared in *Economic and Political Weekly* and Springer publications. She is Assistant Editor of the *Indian Journal of Human Development*.



Udaya Shankar Mishra

Professor & Head, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai

Dr. Udaya S. Mishra is a distinguished statistician and demographer, currently Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, and formerly Professor at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. With over three decades of teaching and research experience, his work spans population and development, ageing, health, nutrition, population policy, and programme evaluation. His current research focuses on health measurement, equity-oriented evaluation, and multidimensional indicators of well-being. He served as President of the Indian Health Economics and Policy Association (IHEPA) for five years and is currently Chief Editor of *Health Empirics*. His academic distinctions include a Takemi Fellowship at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and association with the University of Southampton. He has published extensively and co-edited *Demographic and Development Divide* in India.

