Chintan Research Foundation

INDIAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

THE DILLI DIALOGUE

Policies for a Future-Ready India

12 October 2026
India International Centre,
New Delhi

YOUTH CONFERENCE

ABOUT INDIAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

The Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP), founded in 2018 and incubated by the Centre for Civil Society (CCS), pioneers advanced public policy education in India through its flagship one-year postgraduate program in Policy, Design, and Management. As conference hosts, ISPP leverages its Delhi-based ecosystem, surrounded by government, think tanks, and global partners, to convene diverse stakeholders, nurture next-generation policy leaders, and channel innovative ideas towards addressing national priorities.

For further information about Indian School of Public Policy, please visit: www.ispp.org.in

ABOUT CHINTAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Chintan Research Foundation (CRF) is an independent think tank committed to shaping policy through rigorous research and thought leadership. With a strong focus on fostering collaboration between policymakers and industry, CRF integrates practical insights into its research and advocacy efforts. By publishing research papers, thought pieces, articles, and op-eds, CRF seeks to address key challenges in India and the Global South, fostering diverse perspectives and contributing to impactful policy advocacy. CRF supports informed decision making and engages with stakeholders through discussions, events, and publications. CRF's research is focused on three core areas – Climate Change & Energy Transition, Economy & Trade, and Geopolitics & Strategic Studies

For further information about CRF, please visit: www.crfindia.org

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BACKGROUND NOTE

India stands at a decisive moment in its development trajectory. As the economy expands, urbanises, and integrates more deeply with global markets, the demands placed on public institutions and policy frameworks are growing in scale, complexity, and urgency. Decisions taken today on regulation, employment, public finance, health systems, climate resilience and urban development will shape the country's economic resilience and social outcomes for decades to come. These challenges cannot be addressed through isolated interventions or short-term fixes. They require carefully designed, evidence-based policies informed by high-quality research and sustained engagement among policymakers, academic institutions, and practitioners working on the front lines of implementation. Equally important is the creation of credible platforms where such engagement can take place in a structured, rigorous, and non-partisan manner.

While India hosts several conferences and policy forums, most are either sector-specific, closed-door gatherings, or advocacy-oriented platforms. There is a relative absence of a national, research-led conference that integrates multiple policy domains, systematically engages policymakers and scholars, and meaningfully includes students and early-career policy professionals.

The Dilli Dialogue proposes to address this gap by instituting a national Public Policy Conference - a flagship annual conference focused on applied policy research, reform-oriented dialogue, and youth participation in public policy.

Objectives of the Conference

Through the conference, we seek to achieve the following objectives:

1. Create a National Platform for Policy Research Dialogue

   To establish a credible and recurring forum where policymakers, researchers, think tanks, and practitioners engage on pressing public policy challenges using evidence and applied research.

2. Close the Policy-Research-Praxis Gap

   To enable structured interactions between academic research and real-world policymaking, ensuring that research insights inform governance and reform processes.

3. Mainstream Youth Engagement in Public Policy

   To actively include students and early-career researchers in national policy conversations through dedicated tracks and moderated interactions with senior policymakers.

4. Advance Thematic Policy Conversations Aligned with National Priorities.

   To focus on critical policy areas that are central to India's development trajectory and reform agenda. Leveraging ISPP and CRF research centres on Universal Health Assurance (CUHA), Urban Transition (ICUT), Climate Change and Energy Transition (CCET), and Economy and Trade (CET) as thematic anchors.

AGENDA

Time	Session
9:00-09:25 am	**Registration and Tea**
9:25-09:30 am	**Welcome Address** Mr Luis Miranda, Chairperson and Co-Founder, Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP)
9:30-09:45 am	**Inaugural Address** Dr Guriqbal Jaiya, Chairperson, Vidya Vichari Trust
9:45-11:05 am	Panel I – Economy and Trade: Industry and Digitalisation in India Chair, Experts and Presenters
11:05-11:10 am	**Welcome Address** Mr Shishir Priyadarshi, President, Chintan Research Foundation (CRF)
11:10-11:45 am	**Keynote Address** Mr Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India
11:45-12:10 pm	**Special Address** Dr Shamika Ravi, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister; Secretary to Government of India
12:10-01:25 pm	Panel II – Urbanisation: Small Cities Lead Economic Development Chair, Experts and Presenters
01:25-02:15 pm	**Lunch**
02:15-03:35 pm	Panel III – Climate Change and Energy Transition: Climate-Proofing India's Energy Transition and Building Resilient Energy Infrastructure in an Era of Extreme Weather Chair, Experts and Presenters
03:35-04:50 pm	Panel IV – Health: Essential Drugs and Diagnostics for Health Equity: Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide Chair, Experts and Presenters
04:50-05:00 pm	**Closing Remarks** Mr Shubhashis Gangopadhyay, Founding Dean, ISPP
5:00 pm onwards	**Networking & High Tea**

SPEAKER PROFILES



MR PIYUSH GOYAL
Hon'ble Minister of
Commerce and Industry,
Government of India

Hon'ble Piyush Goyal is the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Member of Parliament, North Mumbai Lok Sabha. He has previously served as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha and helmed the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, Textiles, Railways, Finance, Corporate Affairs, Coal, Power, New & Renewable Energy, and Mines. Under his leadership, India has signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the UAE, the fastest-ever negotiated FTA globally, & India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), India's 1st agreement with a developed country after a decade, and clocked its highest-ever exports of about $776 billion in 2022-23.



DR SHAMIKA RAVI
Member, Economic Advisory
Council to the Prime Minister;
Secretary to Government of India

Dr Shamika Ravi is a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, and Secretary to the Government of India. Her research focuses on the economics of development, including finance, Healthcare, Urbanisation, Gender Equality, and Welfare and Poverty. Over the last 20 years, Dr Ravi has taught in post-graduate programmes across India, including the Indian School of Business and the BITS School of Management, where she teaches Managerial Economics, Game Theory and Microfinance. She publishes extensively in international peer-reviewed academic journals and writes regular opinions pieces in newspapers (English and Hindi) for the wider audience of public policy.



DR GURIQBAL JAIYA
Chairperson,
Vidya Vichari Trust

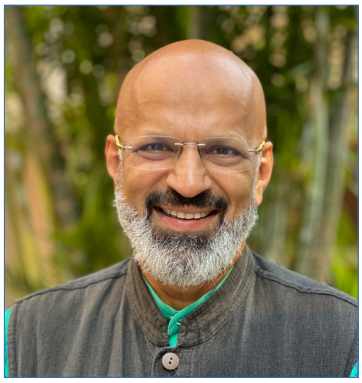
Dr Guriqbal Singh Jaiya is a physician, lawyer, and expert in IP, innovation, digital health, and tech policy. A former IAS officer, he negotiated the TRIPS Agreement for India (1990-1993) before serving 24 years at WIPO (1993-2017), notably as Director of the SMEs Division (2002-2011). There, he advanced IP led economic development and co-authored numerous publications. He also taught IP at the University of Neuchâtel (2011-2015). Currently, he chairs Vidya Vichari Trust and is Managing Partner in SKS Law Associates, Chief Advisor to Project VIKRAM, and an XLSCOUT advisory board member, continuing his focus on entrepreneurship, education, systems thinking, and emerging technologies.

SPEAKER PROFILES



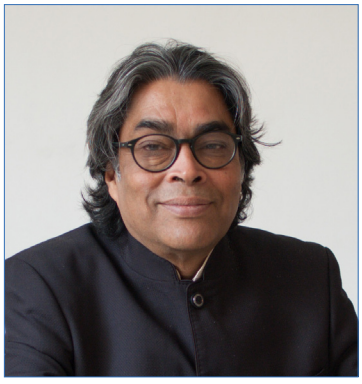
MR SHISHIR PRIYADARSHI
President, CRF

Mr Shishir Priyadarshi is President of Chintan Research Foundation. He is also former Director of the World Trade Organization (WTO) with over 22 years of experience working with global institutions. His expertise spans international economic policy, trade regulations, infrastructure development, and issues concerning developing countries. Before his international career, he served for over 20 years in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), holding senior positions at the state and central levels. An alumnus of the University of Reading, UK, and the University of Delhi, he holds gold medals in MA Economics and MSc Nuclear Physics. He has published extensively on international trade, development, and economic policy, and has held academic affiliations with leading institutions including LSE, ISB, NUS, IIT Delhi, and the World Trade Institute, Bern.



MR LUIS MIRANDA
Chairperson & Co-Founder,
ISPP

Mr Luis Miranda is Chairperson and Co-Founder of ISPP. He is also Chairman of the Centre for Civil Society and CORO. He has been involved in setting up 2 highly successful companies – HDFC Bank and IDFC Private Equity. Mr. Miranda spends his time, with his wife, connecting dots; using their networks to help the organisations they are connected with. He is also on the board of Educate Girls and SBI Foundation and co-founded, Take Charge, a mentoring programme for Catholic youth in Mumbai. Mr. Miranda is also Chairman of ManipalCigna Health Insurance, Senior Advisor at Morgan Stanley and a board member of L&T Technology Services. He is a member of the Global Leaders Group and the Society Advisory Council at the University of Chicago. He blogs for Forbes and Thrive Global and teaches at the Accelerated Development Program of Chicago Booth.



MR SHUBHASHIS GANGOPADHYAY
Founding Dean,
ISPP

Mr Shubhashis Gangopadhyay is Founding Dean, ISPP. Besides being an Advisor to the Finance Minister, Government of India, Dr. Gangopadhyay has been a Consultant on policies to various ministries including Finance, Planning, Industry and Rural Development. He has led important government research projects like the leading indicator of economic activity, the impact of steel de-control on SAIL, the optimum use of Hajira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur gas pipeline and on exit policy. He was the Founder-Chief Editor of the Journal of Emerging Market Finance (Sage Publications). He is a former member of the board of IDE-I (International Development Enterprises – India), IRBI (Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India) and CAF, ISB Hyderabad (Center for Analytical Finance, Indian School of Business Hyderabad) besides handling a number of high-profile, policy advisory roles.

SPEAKER PROFILES



MR ATUL KUMAR
Senior Associate Director,
APCO Worldwide

Mr. Atul Kumar is an accomplished professional with over 20 years of experience in government affairs, policy advocacy, public affairs, industry representation and managing external affairs. He has a proven track record of success in developing and implementing strategic communication and engagement plans that have resulted in positive policy outcomes. He has extensive experience working with Central and State government officials at all levels. At APCO Worldwide, he navigates the complexities of government relations, public affairs, and stakeholder engagement to help clients (government, associations, and industry leaders) achieve their goals across diverse sectors.



DR SAON RAY
Senior Visiting Professor,
ICRIER

Dr Saon Ray is a Senior Visiting Professor at ICRIER. Her areas of interest include global value chains, technological upgrading of Indian industries, free trade agreements and trade creation effects, technology transfer, foreign direct investment, efficiency and productivity of firms, financial inclusion, energy, and climate change related issues. She has published widely on these issues in books and journal article and led ICRIER studies that provided inputs to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. Dr Ray has been a consultant to ADB, UNU-WIDER, and UNIDO and has presented on India's trade integration from global and regional perspectives at several forums.



DR BIDISHA BHATTACHARYA
Associate Fellow and Head
Research, Centre for Economy
and Trade, CRF

Dr Bidisha Bhattacharya is an Associate Fellow and Head Research for the Centre for Economy and Trade at the Chintan Research Foundation. She previously served as a Consultant to the Chairman of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, Government of India, contributing to policy design on fiscal devolution and resource allocation. In academia, she has taught courses as a Visiting Professor at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, with a focus on International Trade, Mathematical Economics, Operations Research, and Advanced Macroeconomics. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Gokhale Institute, where her thesis explored exchange rate dynamics in a multi-currency world.

SPEAKER PROFILES



MR SUBRATA MITRA
Public Policy Expert

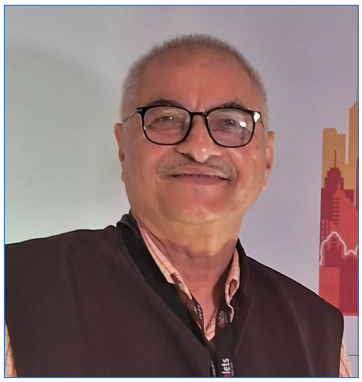
With nearly three decades at the intersection of government, business, and technology, Mr Subrata Mitra is a seasoned public policy leader. In his past role as heading Government Relations at Ather Energy, Mr. Mitra shaped India's electric mobility ecosystem, secured manufacturing incentives, and driven growth. His previous roles include establishing public policy functions for Ericsson and Huawei in India, navigating complex telecom, 5G, and cybersecurity regulations. An earlier 14 year career in enterprise tech with Oracle and IBM laid the foundation for translating policy into commercial outcomes. Dedicated to making policy a competitive advantage, Mr Mitra have secured over $80 million in incentives and enabled multi-billion dollar business opportunities.



Moderator

MR UTSAV NAYAK
Research Analyst, Centre for Economy and Trade, CRF

Mr Utsav Nayak is a Research Analyst at the Centre for Economy and Trade, Chintan Research Foundation. He holds a Master of Science in Economics, with a specialisation in International Business Economics and Finance, from Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. His research interests include international trade, political economy, and socio-economic development, with a strong focus on integrating economic theory with quantitative analysis to guide policy formulation and strengthen economic decision-making across sectors.



PROF. CHETAN VAIDYA
Ex Director, NIUA

Prof. Chetan Vaidya is an architect-planner with over 30-year long academic, research, and consultancy experience in urban planning and development. In 2015, IIT Kharagpur recognized him as a distinguished alumnus. He was Director of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi, during 2012-17 and was also Director of the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)\ during 2008-12. He was an Independent Director (Non-Executive) of GIFT City, Gujarat, and HUDCO. He has been a consultant to many international agencies on Urban development.

SPEAKER PROFILES



MR ANSHUL MISHRA, IAS
Additional Director of Administration, AIIMS

A senior Indian civil servant with over 20 years of experience across governance, policymaking, urban planning, and public service delivery at the local, state, and central government levels. Currently serving as Additional Director of Administration at AIIMS, New Delhi, he has previously served as MD, Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board, and Member Secretary, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA). His work has covered Chennai's Third Master Plan, urban densification, urban economics, compact cities, land pooling, land value capture, affordable housing, flood-risk planning, multimodal mobility, and lake and shoreline rejuvenation. His multidisciplinary background in political science, economics, philosophy, and international relations informs his commitment to evidence-based urban development.



MS REJEET MATHEWS
Program Director, Integrated Urban Development, WRI India

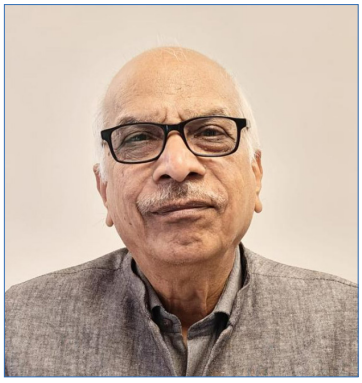
Ms Rejeet Mathews is Program Director, Integrated Urban Development at WRI India. At WRI India, she leads teams providing technical assistance to national and state-level programs, and also leads the Eco City-Regions initiative. She has served as an expert member of the High-Level Committee on Urban Planning set up under MoHUA following the Union Budget 2022-23. In her earlier consulting career, she has contributed to planning projects including the Development Plan for Greater Mumbai 2014-2034, the Bangalore Metropolitan Region Revised Structure Plan 2011-2031, and the Comprehensive Mobility Plan for Panaji. Her project experience spans India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, France, Libya, Turkey, Mexico, Brazil, and the United States.



MR HITESH VAIDYA
Urban Practicioner

Hitesh Vaidya is a distinguished urban development practitioner with over 25 years of experience in policy design, project formulation, and large-scale program management. He has worked extensively with global development institutions including the United Nations, World Bank, and USAID, contributing to transformative initiatives in urban governance, infrastructure management, and inclusive poverty alleviation. Prior to joining the National Institute of Urban Affairs, he served as Country Representative of UN-Habitat India, where he played a pivotal role in shaping the ecosystem for the design and rollout of India's flagship urban missions. Renowned for his strategic leadership, he excels in building robust institutional frameworks and driving effective project implementation through strong coordination among governments, multilateral agencies, and diverse stakeholders.

SPEAKER PROFILES



PROF. KK PANDEY
Proffesor (Retired), IIPA

Professor K.K. Pandey, Senior Urban Practitioner and former faculty at IIPA, HSMI /Hudco, and NIUA, holds a Ph.D. in Urban Finance. Professor Pandey has more than four decades of extensive experience in urban finance, management, and sustainable delivery of municipal services. He has conducted extensive research, provided advisory services, and built capacity while working with IIPA, HUDCO, and NIUA. He has been a member of working groups, task forces, and committees at the state, national, and international level. These include the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, J&K, NCR Planning Board, and UN-Habitat, UNESCO, UNEscap, Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies, Citynet, etc. He has been a part of landmark research by NIUA for the eighth and ninth Finance Commissions.



DR GOPAL SARANGI
Associate Professor, Department of Policy Studies, Department of Management Studies, TERI School of Advanced Studies

Dr Gopal K Sarangi is an Associate Professor in the Department of Policy Studies and Department of Management Studies (DoMS), at TERI SAS. His primary domain of research covers energy markets and regulation, green finance and related financing issues such as climate financing, sustainable development financing, carbon market, industrial decarbonisation and ESG issues, intersection of new energy technologies, among others. He has contributed as PI, Co-PI, Advisor and team member to several collaborative projects funded by DFID, EPSRC, World Bank, British Academy, UNDP, Prosper.Net, ICIMOD, Norwegian Research Council (NRC) and Government of India (GoI) and various state governments in India. He has contributed to the policy making as a nominated member by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) of GoI in the selection of villages for their performance in renewable energy domain and in their carbon neutrality.



DR AKANKSHA JAIN
Research Associate, Centre for Climate Change and Energy Transition, CRF

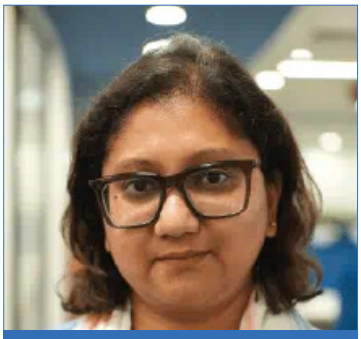
Dr Akanksha Jain is a Research Associate at the Centre for Climate Change and Energy Transition. She holds a PhD in Biotechnology from South Asian University, where her work focused on biofuel (hydrogen) production, waste valorisation, microbial bioprocess optimisation and engineered systems analysis. Her expertise spans sustainability analysis, life-cycle assessment, clean energy systems (hydrogen, biofuels, ethanol, biogas), and science-policy communication. She has authored scientific papers, policy commentaries, and op-eds. She also works on integrating Indic ecological thought into contemporary narratives of sustainability and science education. Passionate about accessible science communication, she develops data-driven insights to support evidence-based climate and energy policy.

SPEAKER PROFILES



DR ANANDAJIT GOSWAMI
Research Lead, ACPET, Ashoka University, Professor, Director, Manav Rachna Centre for Peace and Sustainability, Manav Rachna University

Dr Anandajit Goswami is a Professor and Research Director at Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies, Faridabad. He holds a PhD in Energy Economics and Policy from TERI School of Advanced Studies, where he taught for eight years. He has led projects supported by UNCTAD, UKAID and ADB on trade, sustainable development and energy policy, and has advised ministries and international organizations. He is also a Visiting Research Fellow at the Ashoka Centre for a People-centric Energy Transition and an Honorary Visiting Professor at IMPRI. An author of journal articles, reference books and fiction, he founded the charity TOHRI and advocates for the environment through music.



Moderator

DR RIA SINHA
Senior Fellow, Centre for Climate Change and Energy Transition, CRF

Dr Ria Sinha is a sustainable finance and climate policy expert with over 16 years of experience spanning research, advisory, and academic roles. She has previously led research on blended finance, innovative finance, and outcomes-based financing as Research Lead and Senior Fellow at the Centre for Innovative Finance and Social Impact, Indian School of Development Management (ISDM). Over the course of her career, she has worked in various capacities at leading institutions including The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Development Alternatives Group, the Centre for Responsible Business, and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), contributing to projects on climate finance, resource efficiency, ESG integration, circular economy, and sustainable development.



MR HITESH WINDLASS
Managing Director, Windlas Biotech Limited

Hitesh Windlass is the Managing Director of Windlas Biotech Limited. He has set up our Domestic Trade Generics, OTC Brands and Exports SBVs and plays a significant role in driving the technical operations, quality, manufacturing and financial strategy of our Company. He has over 18 years of experience in the field of management. He was previously associated as a process engineer with Intel Corporation, USA. and has a large professional experience.

SPEAKER PROFILES



MR K.M. GOPAKUMAR
Senior Researcher and Legal Advisor, Third World Network

Mr K.M. Gopakumar is Senior Researcher and Legal Advisor at Third World Network. He is a respected international policy analyst and researcher specializing in global trade, intellectual property rights, public health policy, and economic development issues. As a Senior Researcher and Legal Advisor at Third World Network (TWN), he provides critical insights into multilateral negotiations, global power dynamics, and economic justice for developing nations. His work supports policymakers, civil society, and global institutions working toward equitable development. Mr K.M. Gopakumar's work in TWN focuses on the global IP regime and its implications on development.



DR AASHNA MEHTA
Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Public Health, Delhi

Dr. Aashna Mehta is an Associate Professor at the Indian Institute of Public Health-Delhi and an economist specialising in health economics, healthcare financing and pharmaceutical policy. Her research focuses on health financing, costing, investment cases, impact evaluation, pharmaceutical pricing, procurement, private-market competition, antimicrobial consumption and pharmaceutical regulation. She worked with the United Nations Task Force on Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and has experience in India, Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka and Cambodia. In 2023, she was appointed to the Quadripartite Group on the Economics of Antimicrobial Resistance and serves on the PMNCH Working Group on Financing Women, Children and Adolescents.



Moderator

DR BISWAJIT DHAR
Professor (Retired), Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Professor Biswajit Dhar is a development economist who was previously a Professor at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning in Jawaharlal Nehru University. Professor Dhar had earlier served as the Director General of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a think-tank of Ministry of External Affairs. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Centre for WTO Studies of the Government of India and was the Head of the Centre for several years. Professor Dhar was a member of the Indian delegation in treaty negotiations conducted by several multilateral organizations, including the World Trade Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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