

IPCI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

STATE OF INDIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY (SIDE)

Speakers' Profiles

February 24th, 2023

ASHWINI VAISHNAW is currently the Union Cabinet Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & IT. He was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) in June 2019. He represents the Eastern State of Odisha. Mr. Vaishnaw brings blend of experience in government entrepreneurship and public services.



In his early career as an IAS officer, Mr. Vaishnaw earned the reputation of executing development programmes with active participation of people at the grassroots. For instance, his team in Balasore effectively used technology and mobilized people during the Odisha Super Cyclone of October 1999. Mr. Vaishnaw used the data available on US JTWC website to accurately track the path of the Super Cyclone. He engaged with the people living in the villages that were located in the path of the cyclone, mobilized them and evacuated more than half a million people just before the cyclone hit the coast. This helped in saving thousands of lives. The strategy of evacuation was then adapted as a standard operating process throughout Eastern India, which is frequently hit by cyclones.

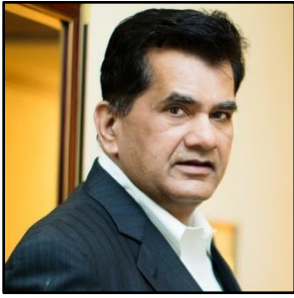
His work in districts of Sundergarh, Balasore and Cuttack was highly appreciated and he was selected to work in the Prime Minister's Office.

In Prime Minister Vajpayee's Office, Mr. Vaishnaw focused on developing infrastructure in public-private partnerships. He was part of the team that set-up the framework which led to development of thousands of kilometres of world class highways, sea ports and airports in India. After serving Mr. Vajpayee, Mr. Vaishnaw led the operation and development of Mormugao Port Trust, a major sea-port on the West Coast of India. Here, he conceived and developed projects for Cruise terminals, Coal terminal, and modernization of Iron Ore terminals.

In his corporate and entrepreneurial journey, Mr. Vaishnaw worked in the railway, urban infrastructure, and manufacturing sectors.

Mr. Vaishnaw earned his MBA from the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, USA and Masters in Technology from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India.

Mr. Vaishnaw, 52 years enjoys meditating, reading and listening to music.



AMITABH KANT is presently India's G20 Sherpa. He was previously the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) (2016-2022) and the Secretary of the Department for Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) (2014-2016), Government of India.

He has been a key driver of flagship national initiatives such as Startup India, Make in India, Incredible India, Kerala: God's Own Country and the Aspirational Districts Program. He also served as the Chairman and CEO of the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC) (2009-14) which is now known as NICDIC, CMD of the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and as Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism. (2001-2007).

He is also a member of the Steering Board of "Shaping the Future of Production Systems" of World Economic Forum (WEF) and also a Champion of the EDISON Alliance of the WEF.

Mr. Kant did his schooling from Modern School, Delhi, graduation in Economics (Hons) from St. Stephens, Delhi University and M.A from Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is a Chevening Scholar.

PRAMOD BHASIN is the Chairperson of Clix Capital. He is also the Chairman of ICRIER one of India's leading economic research think tanks that contributes extensively to economic policy research on critical areas. He was also the Founder and CEO of Genpact Ltd.



Earlier he was the President & CEO of GE Capital in India from 1994 to 2005, and GE Capital Asia from 1998 to 2001. He was with the General Electric Corporation in UK and the USA and Asia for over 25 years.

Pramod is considered the Pioneer of the Business Process Industry in India. He founded Genpact in 1996 and led it till 2011. Genpact is a NYSE publicly listed Global business that currently spans 26+ countries and employs over 90,000 people. Under his leadership, Genpact also pioneered this industry in Eastern Europe, China and Latin America. Genpact currently has a market capitalization of approximately \$10 billion and revenues of approximately \$4 billion.

Pramod is currently the Chairman of Clix Capital, a Financial Services Business in India focused on providing digital platforms and financial services to consumers and small businesses.

He is the co-founder of Asha Impact, an organisation focused on Social Impact Investments and Advocacy in key areas such as Education, Waste Management, Healthcare and Financial Inclusions. He is a Strategic Advisor to Kedaara, a Private Equity firm.

He sits on the Governing Board of Help Age India. He currently serves on the Board of DLF Ltd., and in the past, has served on the Board of Bank of India and NDTV and SRF Ltd. He has been the Chairman of Nasscom and was voted IT Man of the Year by DataQuest, and Manager of the Year by EY & Co. He was also the President of TIE, NCR.

Pramod is a Chartered Accountant (England and Wales) and an alumni of Shri Ram College of commerce.



DEEPAK MISHRA is the Director and Chief Executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Prior to joining ICRIER, he was the Practice Manager at the World Bank's Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment Global Practice, responsible for East Asia and Pacific region. Deepak has held various positions at the World Bank, including the Co-director of the World Development Report 2016 (Digital Dividends), Country Economist for Ethiopia, Pakistan, Sudan and Vietnam. His research work has been published in various academic journals including the Journal of Development Economics, the Journal of International Economics and the Journal of Agriculture Economics.

Deepak has also served as the World Bank's Country Economist for India, based in New Delhi, and working closely with the Government of India and with several state governments including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Punjab. Prior to joining the World Bank, Deepak worked at Tata Motors, Federal Reserve Board and the University of Maryland. Born in Odisha, Deepak received his M.A. (Economics) from the Delhi School of Economics and Ph.D. (Economics) from the University of Maryland.



SAURABH GARG is presently the CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India.

Dr. Garg is an IAS officer of Odisha Cadre and has worked in the Departments of Expenditure and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India; and as Adviser at the World Bank, Washington DC. Prior to joining the IAS, he was with the Tata Administrative Service.

He has worked on areas like digitalizing agriculture, direct income transfer scheme for farmers, formation of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF); improving the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policies; preparing the framework for digital payments; revamping of the gold sector policies and has led negotiations for the Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs).

Dr. Garg holds a Ph.D in International Economics and Development from the Johns Hopkins University, USA; an MBA from IIM, Ahmedabad and a B. Tech from IIT Delhi. He was a Chevening Gurukul scholar at the LSE, London.

HELANI GALPAYA is CEO of LIRNEasia, a pro-poor, pro-market think tank working on digital policy issues across the emerging Asia Pacific. She researches issues related to digital access, data & algorithmic governance, and digital platform labor.



Helani serves on the Board of Editors of the Information Technology and International Development (ITID) journal, is on the Board of Directors of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), and a member of the Working Group on Innovation and Commercialisation of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI). She's been a member of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the UN Internet Governance Forum, Advisor to the UN Broadband Commissions Working Group on Bridging the Digital Gender Divide, and other international initiatives related to digital governance.

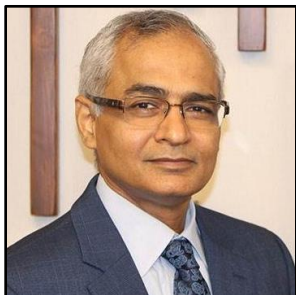
SEHRAJ SINGH, Managing Director, Prosus is a former financial services and management consulting professional, Sehraj currently develops and leads Naspers' and Prosus's policy, strategic, and government initiatives across the full range of areas that impact Naspers, Prosus, and technology in the region. He helps shape product and technology agendas with policy makers inside and outside government, and advises investment and operating teams on the public policy implications on their business and on emerging technologies. He also works closely with portfolio company founders and Prosus segment CEOs across classifieds, fintech, food delivery, ride sharing, edtech, health-tech, social commerce, and logistics.



His key focus areas include anti-trust/competition, product representation, net neutrality, tax policy, internet governance, data localization, intermediary liability, data privacy, technology innovation, intellectual property, startups policy, online content policies, free expression, FDI and foreign Investment. A technology evangelist, he represents the internet and technology industry on parliamentary committees, and regularly engages with government, regulators, law enforcement and policy-makers.

Sehraj has formerly worked in different leadership roles across LinkedIn / Microsoft, Google, and Russell Investments.

Sehraj holds an A.B. in Economics, and a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University, where he was also a Teaching Fellow at the Center for Public Leadership, a Graduate Fellow at the Mossavar Rahmani Center for Business & Government and a Visiting Fellow at the Program for Financial Systems at Harvard Law School.



NEERAJ MITTAL is an officer of the 1992 batch of IAS. An Electrical Engineer by training from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, MBA from Cranfield University in U.K. and Ph.D. in Economics/MIS from Fisher College of Business, Ohio State University, USA. He has several peer reviewed publications to his credit. He is passionate to leverage technology to simplify processes, improve efficiency, convenience, participation and transparency in

Governance.

His experience spans policy formulation and execution in e-Governance, Transport, Industrial promotion, Petroleum & Natural gas, Commerce & Industry, Telecommunications and Information Technology. In his previous assignment he worked as Senior Advisor at the World Bank in Washington DC. TN witnessed several initiatives to roll out e-Governance applications across the state, unique initiatives such as iTNT hub for technology incubation during his tenure as Secretary IT and digital services, spate of investments during his last tenure as CEO of Guidance which is the TN's investment promotion agency. His prior engagements include "PaHal" world's largest Cash Transfer Program in LPG in India and "Give It Up" in Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

He is currently Additional Chief Secretary / Chairman & Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, Government of Tamil Nadu.



V. L. KANTHA RAO is a senior bureaucrat with the Ministry of Communications, Government of India. Mr Rao has over three decades of experience across various disciplines in Government and has been instrumental in successful execution of initiatives under Digital Communication Policy, development of technology and universal connectivity.

He is presently responsible for administering the Universal Services Obligation (USO) fund that works towards ensuring ubiquitous connectivity in rural, remote and underserved areas of the country. Several schemes and projects are also underway for ensuring universal 4G mobile and internet connections in uncovered villages across India.

Mr. Rao is a Bachelor of Technology and Master's in Business Administration and belongs to the Indian Administrative Service of Government of India.

ABHISHEK SINGH is a career Civil Servant with 27 years of experience of governance and policy formulation. He specialises in use of Technology for improving Governance.



In his role as President & CEO, National eGovernance Division and MD&CEO of Digital India Corporation, he leads major Digital India Initiatives including projects in the field of Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Technologies.

He is also CEO of Karmayogi Bharat – a Government Company tasked with building a tech platform for Capacity Building of all Civil Servants.

He has done Masters in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He is also an alumnus of IIT Kanpur.

ARUNA SUNDARARAJAN is a retired officer of the Indian Administrative Service. She served as the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministries of Steel, IT and Telecom; and retired as Chairperson of the Digital Communications Commission in July 2019.



During her tenure, Ms Sundararajan played a pioneering role in steering various important tech policies and initiatives; across the domains of telecom and hardware manufacturing, e-governance, digital payments, data protection cyber security and tech start-ups.

Post her retirement, Ms Sundararajan serves on the Boards of leading companies including Delhivery and Bharat FIH, India's National Bank of Infra Financing and Development (NabFID), Cochin international Airport and a neo-banking start-up called Digi Vridhhi. She is also an active member of various tech mentoring and angel financing initiatives; and the chairperson of the Broadband India forum.



A. DAMODARAN is Distinguished Professor in the Digital Economy, Start-up and Innovation (DESI) team. Prior to joining ICRIER, Damodaran was a senior Professor with the Economics Area at IIM Bangalore. His areas of specialization include application of new generation digital technologies, the economics of the Metaverse and NFTs, architecture of distributed economic systems, blockchain applications for defense sector, IoT models for the food industry, climate and biodiversity financing models based on digital platforms and sui generis regulation of cryptocurrency/ cryptoassets etc.

Professor Damodaran did his doctoral studies in Economics and has held academic and professional assignments abroad, including visiting faculty positions. He was awarded the Homi Bhabha Fellowship in 2004. Damodaran was Environmental Fellow with the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and a Visiting Scholar at the University of California at Berkeley under the US-Asia Environment Programme in 1994. He has also held Visiting Faculty positions at the University of Bonn, Germany, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan, University of Wageningen, Netherlands, and the Graduate School of Management, St Petersburg State University in Russia. In 2012 he was appointed Visiting Fellow at the United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies, Japan. As a Scholar in Residence at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA in 2015 he worked on the convergence on Environmental Economics and Cultural Economics. Damodaran led the initiative on Biodiversity Financing for the United Nation’s Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2011 which has morphed into the UNDP driven BIOFIN Project. From 2015 to 2018, he was the Chairperson of the GOI Technical Advisory Committee of BIOFIN India.

He has authored three sole authored books and has several peer reviewed papers. His papers have appeared in Ecological Economics, Journal of Innovation and Development, World Development, Journal of Environmental Management, Oxford Development Studies, International Journal of Cultural Policy, Ecosystem Services etc.

Damodaran has prepared position papers for the WIPO, Government of India (on Royalty Payments and Road map for the Madrid Protocol on Trade Marks, fiscal instruments on Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Finance in the context of G 20).

T. KOSHY is the MD & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a first-of-its-kind initiative globally to democratize e-commerce in India.



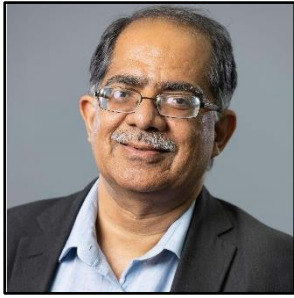
Koshy is erudite with rich professional experience and expertise. An IIM Bangalore alumnus, he was part of the founding team of National Security Depository Limited (NSDL) and served as an Executive Director. He has also marked a remarkable stint in Ernst & Young leading key digital transformation initiatives.

Mr Koshy has been a pioneer in Digital ID and social protection initiatives and has played a leadership role in many implementations and consulting projects globally including the UID project of India, the largest ID program in the world, along with many other Digital ID initiatives globally.

Mr Koshy played a key role in the many digital transformation projects in India, including the transformation of Pension Systems in India, the development of the Tax Information Network and the formulation of IT strategy and IT architecture for the implementation of Goods & Service Tax in India. Mr Koshy has also assisted the World Bank with pension transformation projects and has been to China as a member of a pension reform mission.

Mr Koshy has also served as a member of SEBI committees pertaining to the adoption of dematerialized settlement of securities and mutual funds as well as committees constituted by the RBI with reference to the Online Tax Accounting System for Direct and Indirect Tax. He has also been a member of the Sub Group on Technology of the Tax Administration Reform Commission of the Government of India constituted to recommend measures for reforms required in Tax Administration to enhance its effectiveness and efficiency for both Direct as well as Indirect tax.

Mr Koshy played a significant role in several e-Government initiatives, including the Unique ID project, the Expenditure Information Network, the Project PLATINUM for the development of a legal and IT framework for the Ministry of Urban Development's guaranteed land title, the Common Data Repository for the Insurance Sector, the E-Stamping initiative, and the automation of VAT functions in a few Indian states.



SHARAD SHARMA, Co-founder, iSPIRT Foundation

Sharad's mantra is to lead ecosystems and companies through orbit change. He has three decades of experience in the Internet, Enterprise Software, Digital Finance and Digital Health sectors and is a prominent voice in India's technology ecosystem.

Sharad is a passionate evangelist of the software product ecosystem in India. He co-founded iSPIRT Foundation, a non-profit technology think tank devoted to making India a product nation. iSPIRT has conceptualized India Stack and other Digital Public Goods. Earlier, he Chaired NASSCOM Product Forum in its formative years and was a member of the NASSCOM Executive Council from 2009-13.

Sharad co-founded Teltier Technologies Inc., a wireless infrastructure startup now part of CISCO, and is an active technology angel investor with over two dozen investments. He was also instrumental in the success of India's first IP focussed fund, India Innovation Fund.

Sharad has held several senior R&D executive positions with leading technology companies, including Yahoo, VERITAS Software, Symantec, Lucent Technologies, and AT&T. Zinnov gave him the R&D Visionary Award in 2008 for his work on creating a strong MNC R&D footprint in India.

Sharad is a member of National Startup Advisory Council, SEBI's Financial and Regulatory Technology Committee and Chairs the taskforce on DPI in ThinkTank20 (T20) engagement group of G20. He has also served on RBI's UK Sinha MSME Committee and National Digital Payments Committee.

Sharad got interested in kernel software development while doing his Electrical Engineering at Delhi College of Engineering. He started India's first Student Minicomputer Club in 1984 as served as the Chairperson of the IEEE Student Chapter.

NITA TYAGI, Director- Partnerships and Growth eGov Foundation

Nita works at the cusp of Technology and large societal programs in the Governance and Health Domains. She has now spent nearly a decade in this and believes in the power of Digital Platforms and collaboration across “samaj-sarkar-bazar” to address the hard to crack societal challenges at population scale.



She has 29+ years of varied experience as an entrepreneur and executive roles in global organizations like Lloyds bank UK, Hewlett Packard, Australia NewZealand Bank etc. For the last 10 years she has done deep work in national scale digital transformation initiatives with both Central and State Govts. She has led large transformational programs in health and governance verticals

Nita is an alumnus of the the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT R) and the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM B)

B. G. MAHESH is Co-founder & CEO of Sahamati, a not-for-profit industry alliance of participants in the Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem. At Sahamati, Mahesh oversees all programs and works to establish productive relationships between market participants, policy makers, and the citizenry. Mahesh has spent nearly three decades enabling technology-driven solutions to problems of digital inclusion in India. Prior to Sahamati, Mahesh founded OneIndia.com, a very successful portal that served content to over 100 million per month of Indian consumers in vernacular languages, which was acquired by DailyHunt.





DAVID EAVES is Associate Professor of Digital Government and Co-Deputy Director of the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose at University College London. David's courses focus on the governance of digital public infrastructure and the minimum viable knowledge public administrators need on technology to be effective in a digital era. He is a co-founder of Teaching Public Service in a Digital Age, which seeks to increase the number of public servants receiving digital era public administration skills.

David also sits on the Investment Committee of Co-Develop, a philanthropic fund that supports the development of digital public infrastructure in ways that promote inclusion, safeguards, and equity.

A believer in public entrepreneurship David has helped train numerous cohorts of Code for America fellows, White House Presidential Innovation Fellows and Code for Canada Fellows. He was also co-founder and CEO of ReCollect, a software company used by hundreds of municipalities to help encourage recycling and better manage their waste streams.



R. CHANDRASHEKHAR is a highly respected and well recognized public figure in the IT and Telecom sectors, both in India and internationally. He is currently Chairman of the Centre for The Digital Future and is associated with several organizations in advisory roles and Board positions. As a former Secretary to the Government of India for Telecom, Electronics and IT, and former President, NASSCOM he possesses a unique breadth of expertise and experience, both in the Government and private sector, that covers the entire gamut of the IT and Telecom sectors. He was a member of the country's premier Indian Administrative Service.

PAYAL ARORA is a digital anthropologist, a Professor in Technology, Values, and Global Media Cultures, and Director in UX and Inclusive Design at Erasmus University. She is the co-founder of FemLab, a global future of work initiative. Her expertise draws from two decades of user experiences among low-income communities worldwide to shape inclusive designs and policies. She is the author of award-winning books including the “The Next Billion Users” with Harvard Press. Engadget stated that her Harvard book is one of “the most interesting, thought-provoking books on science and technology we can find.” Forbes named her the “next billion champion” and “the right kind of person to reform tech.” About 150 international media outlets have covered her work including the BBC, Financial Times, 99% Invisible, The Economist, Quartz, Tech Crunch, The Boston Globe, F.A.Z., The Nation and CBC. She has consulted on tech innovation for diverse organizations such as IDEO, Adobe, Spotify, Google, KPMG, GE, UNHCR, and HP. She has given more than 300+ talks including TEDx talks on the future of the internet and innovation. She sits on several boards for organizations such as Columbia University’s Earth Institute, UNICEF, UNESCO, and World Women Global Council in New York. She has her MA and PhD from Harvard and Columbia University in International Policy and Tech studies. Her upcoming book, “Next Billion Ready: Designing systems to include the world” is in contract with MIT Press and Harper Collins India.



SUNIL ABRAHAM is the Public Policy Director, India for Data Governance and Emerging Technologies at Meta India since October 2020. Prior to joining Meta, he was an endowed professor at ArtEZ University of the Arts in the Netherlands. Sunil co-founded Mahiti Infotech 23 years ago in Bengaluru which today continues to serve global civil society with a team of 40 engineers that specialize in free and open source software solutions. He co-founded the Centre for Internet and Society in 2008, which had offices in New Delhi and Bengaluru and served as its executive director for the first 11 years. The Centre has produced high impact policy and academic research that spans areas like accessibility for the disabled, access to knowledge, openness, internet governance, telecom and digital humanities. Sunil was elected an Ashoka fellow in 1999 to explore the “democratic potential of the Internet.”





PAYAL MALIK is Adviser, Economics and Head of the Economics Division at the Competition Commission of India. She is on secondment from PGDAV College, University of Delhi, where she is an Associate Professor of Economics. At the CCI, she is the lead economist and advises the Commission on Digital Markets (both for enforcement and advocacy). She has played a key role in advising the Commission on the economics of Competition law across an expansive range of industries in India and led critical interfaces between the CCI, sectoral regulators, government, industry and the international competition community. She has led several Market Studies of the Commission including e-commerce, pharmaceutical, telecommunications, institutional investment and competition and film industry.

A public policy economist her areas of expertise are competition and regulation of infrastructure/network Industries; technology policy; digital markets, competition policy/antitrust litigation; ICTs and innovation systems and startup ecosystem. She was on the team that drafted the Electricity Act of India ushering competition into the sector.

Formerly she has been a visiting Senior Research Fellow LIRNEasia Senior Consultant, National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Delhi. and visiting faculty National Law University Delhi. Her research and professional collaborations have been with OECD, Orbicom, IDEI, University of Toulouse, Technical University, Delft, Netherlands, University of Québec at Montreal, CEPR, JRC, European Commission, IPTS Seville, ICEGEC, Hungary, Department of Information Technology, TRAI, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Planning Commission of India, CSO, India, WSP-SA, World Bank and AFD, Paris.

She has a BA (Hons.) in Economics from Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi and an MA and MPhil in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics. She also has an MBA in finance from University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA.

CARL BENEDIKT FREY is a Swedish-German economist, economic historian, speaker and author. He is based at Oxford University.



Carl Benedikt Frey is Oxford Martin Citi Fellow at Oxford University where he directs the programme on the Future of Work at the Oxford Martin School.

After studying economics, history and management at Lund University, Frey completed his PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition in 2011. He subsequently joined the Oxford Martin School where he founded the programme on the Future of Work with support from Citigroup. Between 2012 and 2014, he was teaching at the Department of Economic History at Lund University.

In 2012, Frey became an Economics Associate of Nuffield College and Senior Fellow at the Institute for New Economic Thinking, both University of Oxford. He remains a Senior Fellow of the Department of Economic History at Lund University, and a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA). In 2019, he joined the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on the New Economic Agenda, as well as the Bretton Woods Committee. And in 2020, he became a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) – a multistakeholder initiative to guide the responsible development and use of AI, hosted by the OECD.

In 2013, Frey co-authored “The Future of Employment: How Susceptible Are Jobs to Computerization”, estimating that 47% of jobs are at risk of automation. With over 10,000 citations, the study’s methodology has been used by President Barack Obama’s Council of Economic Advisors, the Bank of England, the World Bank, as well as a popular risk-prediction tool by the BBC. In 2019, the paper was debated on the Last Week Tonight Show with John Oliver.

Frey has served as an advisor and consultant to international organisations, think tanks, government and business, including the G20, the OECD, the European Commission, the United Nations, and several Fortune 500 companies. He is also an op-ed contributor to the Financial Times, Foreign Affairs, Scientific American, and the Wall Street Journal, where he has written on the economics of artificial intelligence, the history of technology, and the future of work.

His academic work has featured in over 100 media outlets, including The Economist, Bloomberg, The Guardian, New York Times, Time Magazine, Le Monde, and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. In addition, he has frequently appeared international broadcast media such as CNN, BBC, PBS News Hour, Al Jazeera, and Sky News.

His most recent book, The Technology Trap, was selected a Financial Times Best Books of the Year in 2019.



RAJAT KATHURIA joined Shiv Nadar University as Dean, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, and Professor of Economics, on April 1, 2021.

He carries over 20 years of experience in teaching and more than 15 years of experience in economic policy, besides pursuing extensive research on a range of issues relating to regulation and competition policy. Dr. Kathuria served as Director and Chief Executive at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) before joining the University.

He has earlier taught undergraduate Economics at the University of Maryland, USA, and spent over 12 years with the International Management Institute (IMI), New Delhi teaching post-graduate students Managerial Economics and International Trade. He has also previously worked with the World Bank in Washington D.C. as a Consultant, and worked on research assignments for a number of international organizations, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), United National Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), LirneAsia, The World Bank and The Asian Development Bank (ADB). Dr. Kathuria's work has been published in several journals of repute as well as in top magazines and newspapers across the world. He serves on multiple industry and government Committees such as the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Committee on International Trade Policy and Exports, the Implementation for Intended Determined Contribution (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India), and on the Research Advisory Council of the State Bank of India (SBI).

Dr. Kathuria has an undergraduate degree in Economics from St. Stephens College (University of Delhi), a Masters' from the Delhi School of Economics (University of Delhi) and a PhD from the University of Maryland (College Park), USA.

SHASHANK KUMAR, an alumnus of IIT Delhi ('08), co-founded the full-stack, business-to-farmer (B2F) agritech platform DeHaat, in 2012, and currently serves as its CEO. DeHaat is a one stop destination for small farmers, catering to all their agricultural needs. Under his leadership, DeHaat is grown into one of India's fastest growing AgriTech startups employing a brigade of 1000+ professionals, and working with over 700,000 farmers and 3400+ micro-entrepreneurs.



Shashank was awarded 'The Most Innovative Personality For Rural Development & Agriculture' at the Desh Ratna Conclave 2021 and in 2018, his alma mater, IIT Delhi, felicitated him with the Distinguished Alumni Award. He has also been featured on the BW Disrupt 40 Under 40 list as well Forbes 30 under 30 list in the years 2017 and 2014 respectively. In 2014, he was recognised by Time Now among their list of Amazing Indians and in 2013, he was awarded the honour of "Ashoka Fellow", recognising the world's leading social entrepreneurs.

Shashank has led his team to many milestones including winning The Company of The Year (Agro) award at The TV9 Dare 2 Dream Awards (2021), RaboSustainableAg Asia Challenge (2019), Action for India-AFI (2016), Vodafone Mobile for Good (2015) and Millennium Alliance (2014). He has also been invited to speak among esteemed dignitaries at gatherings such as TiE Global Summit 2021 held at Dubai, TEDx Patna in 2018, TiECon Silicon Valley in 2016 & TEDx IIT Kanpur in 2012. He was selected for PM-India delegation to Kenya for promoting technology in Agriculture for small farmers in Kenya & featured as Champions of Change in 2017 by Niti Aayog.

SANJEEV BIKHCHANDANI is the Founder of Info Edge India Ltd. - the company that owns Naukri.com, India's leading job site. It also owns 99acres.com, Jeevansathi.com and Shiksha.com. In addition it has invested in approximately fifty start-ups including Zomato, Policybazaar, Shopkirana, Ustraa, Gramophone, Bijnis, Shopsy and Dotpe.



Sanjeev schooled at St. Columba's School in New Delhi. He graduated in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University and began his career working in advertising with Lintas. After working for three years he did his post-graduation from IIM Ahmedabad in 1989 and joined the consumer marketing firm HMM Ltd. (now called Glaxo SmithKline Consumer Healthcare Ltd.). He quit his job for entrepreneurship eighteen months later and co-founded Info Edge.

For the first seven years as an entrepreneur, Sanjeev drifted and did a number of small businesses – from salary surveys to databases, to feasibility studies, to training. For a brief period, he was the Consulting Editor of Avenues – the careers supplement of 'The Pioneer' newspaper.

In 1997, Info Edge launched Naukri.com and transformed itself into an Internet company. Starting off from a servant quarter above a garage and with seed capital of two thousand rupees, the company grew and attracted investment from leading venture capitalists. It was the first Internet company to list on Indian stock exchanges. Today Info Edge employs over 4500 people and has a market capitalization of over USD 8 billion.

Sanjeev is active in various industry forums and is a contributor to the entrepreneurship ecosystem. He has served as the President of the Delhi chapter of TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs). He has also served as a member of the Global Board of Trustees of TiE.

He serves as a Member of the Council of Management of All India Management Association.

He has been Chair of the Internet Council of NASSCOM. He has also served on the Venture Capital Investment Committee for the SIDBI Fund of Funds for startups. Sanjeev is a member of the Board of the CIIE Initiatives at IIM Ahmedabad. He is also a member of the National Startup Advisory Council.

Apart from this, Sanjeev is also engaged in philanthropy. He is a founding trustee of Ashoka University. He is a member of the Board of Chintan - a not for profit organization that works with waste pickers in Delhi. He supports 1947 Partition Archive – a not for profit that is building an oral history archive consisting of video interviews of people who experienced partition. He also supports several other non-profit organisations.

Sanjeev has received several awards and honours.

He received the “Ernst and Young – Entrepreneur of the Year” award in 2008 for Business Transformation. Sanjeev also won the Dataquest Pathbreaker Award & the Teacher’s Achievement Award for Business in the same year. In 2011, he was conferred the Distinguished Alumnus award by IIM Ahmedabad and in 2012 he was honoured with the CF Andrews Distinguished Alumnus award by St. Stephen’s College. He is the recipient of the Lakshmipat Singhanian – IIM Lucknow National Leadership Award, as Young Leader in the Business Category for the year 2012. In April 2017, Outlook Magazine selected him as one of India’s fifty greatest CEOs ever. In 2019, he received Lifetime Achievement Award in IT given by the Financial Express. He was honoured with the Pride of India Award 2021 for Lifetime Achievement from Chiratae Ventures. In December 2021 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by Amity University. In January 2022 he received ET Start-Up Awards 2021 in the category Midas Touch. Recently he was honoured with North Star Award 2022 by Old Columbans Association.

Sanjeev was conferred with the Padma Shri Award 2020.

RAJESH BANSAL is the CEO of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH). A highly regarded thought leader, he has nearly three decades of global experience in digital financial services and digital infrastructure across Asian and African markets.



Mr. Bansal has been one of the key architects of India's journey from a cash to cash-lite economy by actively promoting policies and designing new solutions for scale and adoption. He was a member of the founding team of Aadhaar and specifically led the design of India's Direct Benefits Transfer system which is benefiting hundreds of millions of low-income clients. He played a key role in creating India Stack, a digital ID-based infrastructure for a presence-less and cashless service delivery platform, and has been a member of several committees of Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), including in areas of technology, payment systems, and financial inclusion.

Prior to joining RBIH, he was a senior adviser at Carnegie India, where he led the centre's Technology and Society programme. Mr. Bansal holds a Master's degree from Duke University, USA in International Development Policy and has authored a number of articles and opinion pieces in leading publications. Today he is recognised as one of the Top 30 Indian fintech influencers in 2022 and has been a recipient of the prestigious Golden Jubilee scholarship scheme of the RBI.

SUDHA SRINIVASAN is CEO of Centre for Social Innovation, The/Nudge Institute and leads initiatives to create a thriving livelihoods ecosystem.



Since its launch in 2017, The/Nudge CSI has incubated 100+ nonprofit startups, including 30 tech startups solving problems of poverty. Its \$6Mn accelerator fund works with high potential nonprofits that are ready for growth and scale. The/Nudge Prize and the Indian Administrative Fellowship enable problem solvers from diverse domains to apply their capabilities to solve India's most pressing developmental problems.

Prior to The/Nudge, Sudha worked at Intel, where she spent nearly 13 years in various leadership roles. She has great passion for enabling organizations to ramp in scale and competence, and achieve audacious goals.

Sudha is an engineer by training, and holds an MBA from IIM Lucknow. She currently serves on the Agri-Startup Advisory Group, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India.