



IPCIDE Annual Conference 2024 State of India's Digital Economy

Speakers' Profiles

Date: February 16, 2024 (Friday) | 09:00 am – 4:30 pm

Venue: Taj Mansingh Hotel, New Delhi, India

URVASHI ANEJA is a researcher, policy analyst and entrepreneur whose work seeks to drive an equitable and just distribution of technology gains. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Digital Futures Lab, a multi-disciplinary research collective studying the societal impacts of technology transitions in India and the Majority World. Her work focuses on the ethics and governance of Artificial Intelligence and she currently leads multiple global projects on Responsible AI, including Generative AI, in LMICs. She regularly advises governments and industry on technology policy, including AI governance. Her research has been cited in leading global and national media such as the MIT Technology Review, Al-Jazeera, BBC, Reuters and Economic Times. Urvashi has a PhD from the University of Oxford.



PAYAL ARORA is a Professor of Inclusive AI Cultures at Utrecht University, and Co-Founder of FemLab, a feminist futures of work initiative. She is a digital anthropologist and author of award-winning books including ‘The Next Billion Users’ with Harvard Press. Her upcoming book with MIT Press & Harper Collins India, ‘From Pessimism to Promise: Lessons from the Global South on Designing Inclusive Tech’ comes out in the summer 2024. Forbes named her the “next billion champion” and “the right kind of person to reform tech.” She has been extensively covered in the media including by the BBC, Financial Times, The Economist, Quartz, 99% Invisible, Tech Crunch, The Boston Globe etc. She has consulted on inclusive innovation, feminist design, and AI ethics for diverse organizations such as IDEO, Adobe, Spotify, Google, UNESCO, KPMG, GE, UNHCR, and HP etc. She has given more than 350 talks in 115 cities in 67 countries alongside figures like Jimmy Wales and Steve Wozniak and TEDx talks on the future of the internet and innovation. She has held Fellow positions at GE, ZEMKI, ITSRio, MICA, and NYU and is a Rockefeller Bellagio Resident Alumnus. She is Indian, American, and Irish, and is currently based in Amsterdam.



RAJESH BANSAL is the CEO of the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) - a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that was set up to promote innovation in the financial sector. He has more than three decades of experience across digital financial services and infrastructure in Asia and Africa, and has been a key architect in India’s journey towards a cash-lite economy, playing a crucial role in the creation and design of Aadhaar, Direct Benefits Transfer, and IndiaStack.



As a highly regarded thought leader, Mr. Bansal has authored multiple pieces for reputed publications, and is recognised as one of India’s top 50 digital finance influencers of 2024. He has been a recipient of the prestigious Golden Jubilee scholarship from the RBI.



PRAMOD BHASIN is currently the Chairman of Clix Capital, a financial services business, focused on providing digital platforms and financial services across India. He is also the Chairman of ICRIER, one of India's foremost Economic Research think tanks. He is also the co-founder of Asha Impact, a virtual social impact investment fund and advocacy platform.

Previously, Pramod founded Genpact, an NYSE listed company, in 1997 and served as the President and CEO until 2011 and is considered the pioneer of the Business Process Management industry. He led GE Capital in India and Asia, with a 25-year career with GE in the US, UK and Asia. He has also built a Skills business across India.

Pramod currently serves on several boards including DLF Ltd, as well as NGOs such as Help Age India. He serves as a Strategic Advisor to Kedaara, a Private Equity firm. He was voted IT Man of the Year, and has been the Chairman of Nasscom and TIE-NCR.



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 5 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.

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.





CARL-BENEDIKT FREY is the Dieter Schwartz Associate Professor of AI & Work at the Oxford Internet Institute and a Fellow of Mansfield College, University of Oxford. He is also Director of the Future of Work Programme and Oxford Martin Citi Fellow 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. 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 an Associate Fellow of the Department of Economic History at Lund University, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. 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 between 2020 and 2022, he was 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*. With over 12,000 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 the popular automation risk-prediction tool of the BBC. In 2019, the paper also featured 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, the future of cities, and remote work.

His academic work has featured in over 100 media outlets, including The Economist, New York Times, Time Magazine, the New Yorker, 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: Capital, Labor, and Power in the Age of Automation*, was selected a Financial Times Best Books of the Year in 2019, when it also won Princeton University's prestigious Richard A. Lester Prize.

HELANI GALPAYA is the CEO of LIRNEasia, a pro-poor, pro-market think tank working on digital and other infrastructure policy issues across the emerging Asia Pacific. She researches and engages in public discourse on topics related to meaningful digital access, human rights online, changes to labor and skills in light of technology and climate change, and governance of platforms, data, and algorithms.



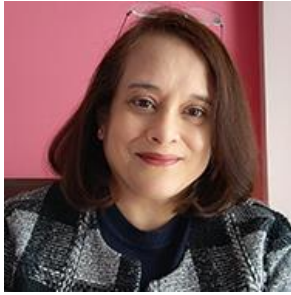
Helani serves on the Board of Directors of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), is a member of the Steering Committee of the International Observatory on Information and Democracy, a member of the Working Group on Shared Societies of the Club de Madrid, and Advisor to the USAID & Gates Foundation's Women in the Digital Economy Fund (WiDEF). Some of her recent past roles include being a member of the Board of Editors of the Information Technology and International Development (ITID) journal, member of the Working Group on Innovation and Commercialisation of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), member of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) of the UN Internet Governance Forum, and advisor to the UN Broadband Commission's Working Group on Bridging the Gender Divide.

NARENDRA NATH GANGAVARAPU, is working as Joint Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat with responsibilities for ensuring cyber security by different entities of India in the government, public and private sectors. He is also driving the initiative on the Trusted Telecom Supply Chain. He is the Coordinating Chair for India for the QUAD Critical and Emerging Technologies Working Group focused on diversifying 5G supply chains, ORAN and obtaining leadership positions in emerging technologies of Biotechnology, AI and Quantum Technologies. He drives the cyber security R&D fund and, in this capacity, NSCS has supported Cybersecurity R&D projects including in emerging technology areas. Prior to this he was Deputy Director General, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India with overall responsibilities for the policy formulation and implementation and matters pertaining to Telecom network security of India.



He was a Director on the Boards of Tata Telecommunications and NIXI and on the Governing Council of TSDSI.

He holds a Masters in Technology from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi with specialization in VLSI design.



DEBJANI GHOSH is the President of the nasscom since April 2018. A veteran of the technology industry, she is the first women at the helm of the organization’s three-decade history.

Driven by a strong belief in the need for human-centric technology that enhances lives and livelihood, Debjani is a vocal advocate for the ethical and responsible use of technology. Under her leadership, nasscom actively works with the industry to ensure responsible practices and build trust as a core competitive advantage for the tech industry in India. Under her guidance, NASSCOM has prioritized the development of a Responsible AI Resource Kit, in partnership with leading industry stakeholders, to promote the adoption of responsible tech solutions.

Back in 2019, nasscom under her leadership coined the term “Techade” to define a decade where technology will play a transformative role to create a sustainable, equitable and safe future, powered by human-centric innovation. Debjani also believes that by the end of this Techade the Tech Industry in India will be established as the world’s leading technology ecosystem and the "I" in innovation will stand for India, fuelled by India’s young talent, the growing confidence in our capabilities to solve for the world and our proven success in building open and interoperable tech ecosystems like the Digital Public Infrastructure, to deliver at scale services grounds up.

Debjani is also a vocal advocate for building a truly inclusive technology sector where talent and meritocracy thrives above all. In January 2018, Debjani was felicitated by the President of India under the auspices of the ‘First Ladies’ program, which honors exceptional women pioneers in their respective fields. In 2020, she has been honored by Vogue as the Tech Leader of the year 2020. Recognizing her contribution in the field of technology, Debjani was also facilitated in ‘40 over 40 - World’s Most Inspiring Women’ list by Fe:maleOneZero (F10) Magazine in 2022.

With multiple feathers in her cap, before joining nasscom, she was the first woman to lead Intel India and the Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology (MAIT), she was also a member of the executive council at nasscom. She believes that learning never stops, and a trainable mindset is the biggest strength one can have.

Debjani holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Osmania University in Hyderabad, India, and an MBA degree in marketing from S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research in Mumbai, India.

MICHAEL GINGULD, Chief Strategy Officer, AirJaldi Michael was born and raised in kibbutz Kissufim in Israel. He has more than 30 years of experience working in ICT, community and rural development projects in India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Nepal, and Israel.



Michael is a co-founder of Rural Broadband Pvt. Ltd. (RBB), a company founded in India in 2007. RBB, operating under the brand name AirJaldi, is dedicated to creating sustainable broadband Internet networks and related offerings for rural areas. RBB has operations in nine Indian states.

Michael holds a B.Sc. in Ag. Econ. from the Hebrew University., Jerusalem, Israel, an MA in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies, the Hague, the Netherlands, and an MA in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA.

Michael is based in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, India.

VINAYAK GODSE is the CEO of Data Security Council of India. He has over 27 years of experience in Information Security, IT Transformation, Intelligent Networking and Telecom Infrastructure.



Vinayak also oversees the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Cybersecurity Technology and Entrepreneurship, a joint initiative of DSCI and the Ministry of Electronics & IT. NCoE is engaged in cybersecurity industry building, fostering security research and product engineering, and building an ecosystem for security entrepreneurship.

He has been deeply engaged with all initiatives of DSCI with government stakeholders and sectoral regulators. He was instrumental in developing DSCI Security Framework (DSF), DSCI Privacy Framework (DPF) and DSCI Certified Privacy Lead Assessor (DCPLA), DSCI Certified Privacy Professional (DCPP) certifications and conducted many of these training programs.

Prior to DSCI, he worked with the Global Consulting Practice of TCS in Information Risk Management and also worked as a Telecom Engineer at BSNL. He started his career as a lecturer in Electronics Engineering.



SANGEETA GUPTA holds the position of Senior Vice President and Head Strategy at Nasscom. She also works closely with the NASSCOM Executive Council which is the governing body of the association. In her current role she leads strategic initiatives at Nasscom along with driving the insights and communications charter.

Sangeeta started her career with Nasscom and has since then worked towards strengthening the association and is actively engaged in multi-fold activities that span across the entire ecosystem for Nasscom – industry members, government, media and other stakeholders.

Being involved with Nasscom from its formative years, she has played a key role in various initiatives at NASSCOM including flagship initiatives like the India Leadership Forum, building the industry long term vision, the annual NASSCOM research report – the Strategic Review and the product and 10,000 startup initiatives. Currently, she is focused on incubating new initiatives including the AI charter and the focus on sustainability in the industry.

Sangeeta is a passionate advocate for the Indian IT industry and has worked tirelessly to promote its growth and development. She is a strong believer in the power of technology to transform lives and is committed to ensuring that India plays a leading role in the global digital economy.

Sangeeta has a degree in Economics from Delhi University and a Masters in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics.



VENKATESH HARIHARAN (Venky) is the Public Policy Director for FOSS United, an organization that represents the Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) community in India and India Representative of the Open Invention Network (OIN), an organization that protects the FOSS community from patent litigation.

Hariharan has 32 years of experience in journalism and public policy with organizations like Google, Red Hat, iSPIRT, Indian Express, IIIT Bangalore, and the Data Governance Network at IDFC Institute. In these roles, he has been involved in key policy issues like open source in government, [open standards](#), software patents, Indian Language Computing, free speech on the Internet, privacy, building and evangelizing Digital Public Goods, and many others. His long term interest is in democratizing access to technology and knowledge.

Hariharan was Executive Editor of Express Computer, a publication from the Indian Express Group and the first Indian to be selected for Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Knight Science Journalism Fellowship in 1998-99. At MIT, Hariharan looked at technologies that can be used to advance India's development. Open Source Software stood out as the most powerful

at a time when expensive proprietary software was the norm. On returning to India, Hariharan co-founded a non-profit called IndLinux.org and wrote an article titled, [“Why Linux Makes Sense for India.”](#) IndLinux worked with linguistic groups in India and abroad and is partly responsible for the fact that Linux desktops are now available in 17 Indian languages. Hariharan was awarded the Indian Open Source Personality of the Year award in 2006 by the organizers of the Linux Asia conference. Hariharan went on to serve as Corporate Affairs Director of Red Hat (Asia Pacific) from 2004 to 2011 and as head of Public Policy and Government Affairs for Google India from 2011-2012. He also served as Director Fintech for iSPIRT and set up the Omidyar funded Data Governance Network at IDFC Institute. He has extensive connections across industry, academia and government in India and abroad.

Hariharan’s writings on technology and open source can be seen at the following links: www.venkytech.medium.com; <https://opensource.com/users/venky>; www.osindia.blogspot.com

AUGUSTE TANO KOUAMÉ is the World Bank’s Country Director for India since August 1, 2022.



Auguste, a national of Côte d’Ivoire, most recently served as the World Bank’s Country Director for the Republic of Turkey – where he led the expansion of the Bank’s country program and deepened its support to Turkey’s climate agenda. Prior to this, he served as Director of the Department of Human Development and Economic Management in the World Bank Group’s Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) from January 2017 to April 2019. He also held positions as Practice Manager in the Macroeconomics and Fiscal Management Practice of the World Bank, first in Latin America and Caribbean countries and then in the Middle East and North Africa regions.

From 2008 to 2014, he held the positions of Sector Manager for Economic Policy, Sector Leader, and Lead Economist in the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Unit and served as acting Chief Economist for the MENA Region. From 2005 to 2008, he served as Assistant to the World Bank Group President.

Auguste took field assignments from 2002-05 as Senior Country Economist, based in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and, subsequently, as World Bank representative in Haiti. He was a core team member of the World Bank’s 1998/99 World Development Report on Knowledge for Development.

Prior to joining the World Bank as a Young Professional in 1996, he worked at the United Nations Development Program and taught Applied Economics in Côte d’Ivoire and France.

Auguste holds a graduate degree in applied economics from ENSAE-Paris and a PhD in economics from EHESS-Paris. He also attended a program in Economic Management at Harvard University.



S. KRISHNAN, IAS, is posted as Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India since 11th September, 2023.

He has earlier served as Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce Department, Government of Tamil Nadu during March, 2020 to August, 2023.

Of the 1989 batch of the Indian Administrative Service, he has also been Additional Chief Secretary in the Finance Department and Principal Secretary in the Housing and Urban Development and in the Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Departments. He was the founder CEO of the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board. He has also served as the Chairman of the Fifth Tamil Nadu State Finance Commission.

He served as the Senior Advisor in the Office of the Executive Director for India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan in the International Monetary Fund (Washington DC) and represented the Government of India in the G20 Expert Groups on International Financial Architecture and Global Financial Safety Nets.

In the Government of India, he has been Deputy Director in the LBSNAA (Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration) for 4 years from 2000 to 2004 and Private Secretary to the Union Finance Minister.

He was District Collector of Virudhunagar District where he calmed a volatile situation and ensured implementation of development programmes in a 3 years tenure. He was also Deputy Secretary (Budget) in Finance Department for 4 years.



C V MADHUKAR leads Co-Develop, leveraging more than 25 years of experience in impact investing, policy, and scaling nonprofits. Madhukar comes to Co-Develop from Omidyar Network, where as Managing Director he built out their global work on digital identity and digital public infrastructure. His previous experience includes setting up PRS Legislative Research, a research institution that focuses on making the legislative process in India better informed, more transparent, and participatory; working at the World Bank on issues regarding parliamentary capacity-building in various countries; and scaling some of India's largest nonprofits, including education nonprofit Pratham.

Madhukar was a Mason Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, where he earned his Master in Public Administration degree. He also has an MBA from the University of Houston and a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Bangalore University. He was elected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, and is an Eisenhower Fellow, Ashoka Fellow, and an Echoing Green Fellow.

When he is not thinking about impact, Madhukar enjoys traveling with his family, watching movies, focusing on wellness, and dreaming of breaking the inertia to resume his amateur water-color painting interest.

PAYAL MALIK, Professor (Visiting) ICRIER, is a public policy economist, her areas of expertise are competition law and policy, digital markets, antitrust litigation, technology policy, and economic regulation of network industries. She has been an Economic Adviser and Head of the Economics Division at the Competition Commission of India for ten years between 2012-2023, where she played a key role in advising the Commission on the economics of competition law across an expansive range of markets and led interfaces between the CCI, sector regulators, government, industry and the international competition community.



Notably, she was the Convener of the Working Group on New Age Economy and Bigdata constituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India (GoI), for the competition law review committee (CLRC). She was also nominated as a member of the task force of the GoI formulating the ecommerce policy of India and member of a sub group of the Committee on Digital Competition law (CDCL), devising an *ex-ante* regulatory mechanism for digital markets through a separate legislation.

She led several Market Studies of the Commission including e-commerce, pharmaceutical, telecommunications, institutional investment and competition and film industry and interfaced with pharma, telecom and coal ministries for developing competition compliant policies and legislations guided by the Commission's Market Studies.

Formerly, she has been a visiting Senior Research Fellow LIRNEasia and Senior Consultant, NCAER, Delhi. Her 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 several years of research and economic consulting experience in network Industries such as power and telecommunication, ICTs, Innovation systems, and Infrastructure. She was on the team that drafted the Electricity Act of India ushering competition into the sector.

She has published in peer reviewed international and Indian journals in the area of competition law and policy. She is a regular columnist and writes op-eds in the field of regulation and competition for reputed business and daily newspapers.



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.



NEERAJ MITTAL, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, a senior Indian Administrative Service Officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, is a B. Tech in Electrical Engineering from IIT, Kanpur, MBA from Cranfield University, UK and Ph.D from Ohio State University, USA in Management Information Systems.

He started his career as an IAS Officer in 1992. He has held various administrative positions in the fields of land and revenue management, mines and minerals, IT/Communications, e-governance. During his stint in Central deputation, he worked in Department of Telecom, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. While working as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, he was instrumental in rolling out the Cash Transfer program in LPG and 'Give It Up' campaign. He has also served as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director in World Bank in Washington DC.

He held important positions of CEO of Tamil Nadu Industrial Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau, Additional Chief Secretary, Information Technology and Digital Service Department and MD & CEO, Tamil Nadu Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation.

He has several publications to his credit. (Linkedin: neerajmittalias) & (Twitter: neerajmittalias)

N. S. NAPPINAI, a senior Advocate practising before the Supreme Court of India & founder of Cyber Saathi™, with over 32 years of experience, appears in cases pertaining to Constitutional, Criminal, IPR and Cyber laws. She appeared for a State Government in a case on data protection during pandemic lockdown. She has led transactions for private equity and debt structuring across multiple jurisdictions. Nappinai founded Cyber Saathi, a non - profit organisation focussing on cyber laws and cyber safety. She was appointed as Counsel for Election Commission.



An alumna of Stanford CDDRL (Democracy & Rule of Law) (2019), Chevening – Cyber UK (2016) and IVLP – IPR USA (2005), Nappinai trains judges, police, Armed forces and intelligence agencies at National & State Judicial / Police Academies and has addressed sessions at National and International Conferences. She has given an inspirational Tedx talk on “Becoming Fearless & Showing Up”.

Nappinai has participated and presented before the UNODC Ad Hoc Committee on Trans-border crimes on its proposed soft law and contributes to Cyber Saathi’s role as the Regional Partner – Asia of the UNODC NGO Unit.

Nappinai presented before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT on Securing Citizen Rights Online (2021) on Electronic Evidence before Criminal Reforms Committee (2021); Lok Sabha Parliamentary Committee on Women Empowerment, on Cyber Safety online (2020) & Government Committees, including the Prajwala Committee constituted by Supreme Court of India; on Cryptocurrencies & Blockchain; Amendments to Information Technology Act, 2000 & on Electronic Evidence. She presented before the National Security Council Secretariat on India’s proposed National Cyber Security Policy 2020 – 2025. Nappinai contributed to I4C, Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI, on cyber related aspects in the three criminal major acts.

A prolific writer, Nappinai oft contributes on leading publications and has authored the seminal book on cyberlaws titled “Technology Laws Decoded”. She contributed a Chapter on Social media in Nani Palkivala’s Festschrift and on Framing an AI policy in the book AI Rising. Her latest book ‘CSassy Tales - Cybercrime Stories & The Law’, Oakbridge Publications (2022) using a unique story telling technique, is well received.

She was Amicus Curiae before Supreme Court in Prajwala vs. Union of India on protecting women and children online. She was Advisor - Tamil Nadu eGovernance Agency; Maharashtra Cyber police and was a Senior Panel Advocate – Central & Western Railways, Government of India.



ROHIT PRASAD is a Professor of Economics and Public Policy at MDI Gurgaon. He has a Ph.D. in Economic Theory from SUNY Stony Brook, USA.

After his Ph.D. he worked in the software industry in USA and India in senior management positions before joining MDI Gurgaon. His research interests include the economics of Information and Communication Technology, the markets for distressed debt, and sustainable development. His papers have been published at leading journals including Telecommunications Policy, The Information Society, Applied Economics, and the Economic and Political Weekly. His column 'Game Sutra', a game theoretic exploration of world events, appeared every fortnight in the Mint for about three years.

His book *The Dynamics of Spectrum Management* co-authored with Dr. V. Sridhar was published by the Oxford University Press in 2014. He is the author of a popular book on entrepreneurship, *Startup Sutra*, and *Blood Red River*, that examines the contours of development conflict in India. Both books were published by Hachette. He is also the author of 'Game Sutra- Rescuing Game Theory from Game Theorists, a collection of essays published by Sage on current affairs from a game theoretic perspective. Of this book, Nobel Prize Winner Prof Robert Aumann wrote 'Entertaining, informative and fresh, it is strongly recommended to anyone who is interested in discovering how human interaction works.'

He has served on a high powered Committee of the RBI on the comprehensive review of the working of the bankruptcy ecosystem, on a high powered Committee of the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India to make recommendations on spectrum allocation and pricing in India, and on two Expert Panels for the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to study the value of spectrum.

His next book 'The Last Dance of Rationality - Making Sense of an Unraveling World Order' is being published by Hachette and will be in stores on December 20, 2023.



SEHRAJ SINGH, is the Managing Director (India) at Prosus. He has a Master's Degree in Public Policy, Business, and Government Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

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 both at the Central and state levels. Her areas of expertise span IT and Telecoms, Regulatory Reform, Organisational Restructuring through Technology infusion, Fintech and tech start-ups.

Post her retirement from the Government, Ms. Sundararajan serves on the Boards of leading companies including Delhivery and L& T Technology Services, Infoedge, 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.

Ms. Sundararajan holds a Post graduate degree in Philosophy from the University of Madras and a Diploma in Public Administration, International Institute of Public Administration, Paris.