

NCAER Workshop on the Economics of AI and Digital Public Infrastructure

June 5–6, 2026 | T2 Auditorium, NCAER, New Delhi

10:00 am		
Registration		
June 5, 2026		
11:00 am to 1:40 pm		
Setting the Agenda: Why Economics of AI & DPI Matter for India		
11:00 to 11:15 am	Chair and Moderator	Manish Sabharwal , Vice-Chairman, NCAER Governing Board; Co-Founder, TeamLease Services
11:15 to 11:30 am	AI-DPI in NCAER's Vision	Suresh Goyal , Director General, NCAER
11:30 to 11:50 am	Why Economics of AI and DPI Matters in India	Ravneet Kaur , Chairperson, Competition Commission of India
11:50 to 12:20 pm	Antitrust Regulation of Big Tech: Insights from the Field	Anindya Ghose , Heinz Riehl Chair Professor of Business, New York University
12:20 to 12:40 pm	India Stack: What Next? Building the Next Generation Data Architecture	Saurabh Garg , Secretary, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, GoI
12:40 to 01:00 pm	Engaged Scholarship: Research with Rigour and Relevance	Ravi Bapna , Curtis L. Carlson Chair Professor in Business Analytics & Information Systems, University of Minnesota
01:00 to 01:20 pm	AI & DPI as Gamechangers for Indian Electronics	S. Krishnan , Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, GoI
01:20 to 01:45 pm	Panel discussion with speakers	Moderated by Manish Sabharwal
01:45 to 2:45 pm		
Lunch		
2:45 - 3:00 pm	Report Launch India Transformation: The Evolving Landscape of Digital Inclusion	Suresh Goyal , Director General, NCAER Manish Sabharwal , Vice-Chairman, NCAER Governing Board; Co-Founder, TeamLease Services Sonalde Desai , Professor & Director, National Data Innovation Centre, NCAER Aparajita Bharti The Quantum Hub
3:00 to 4:50 pm		
State of DPI: Financial Inclusion Research		
3:00 to 3:15 pm	Chair and Opening Remarks	T. Rabi Sankar , Former Deputy Director, RBI

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3:15 to 3:30 pm	DPI - The Path Forward	Kamya Chandra , CEO, CDPI
3:30 to 3:45 pm	From Financial Access to Economic Opportunity: The Role of DPI	Shankar Maruwada , Co-Founder, EkStep Foundation
3:45 to 4:05 pm	Breaking Barriers to Financial Access: Cross-Platform Digital Payments and Credit Markets	Shashwat Alok , Associate Professor of Finance, ISB
4:05 to 4:25 pm	Financing the Token Economy: Peer Credit and Platform Outcomes	Pranav Jindal , Associate Professor of Marketing, ISB
4:25 to 4:50pm	Panel discussion with speakers	Moderated by Kamya Chandra
4:50 to 5:15 pm	Break - Coffee and Tea	
5:15 to 6:30 pm	Panel - From Transactions to Insights: Building a Research Ecosystem around UPI, FASTag, and GST	
5:15 to 5:30 pm	Chair and Opening Remarks	N.R.V.V.M.K. Rajendra Kumar , Member (Finance), NHAI
5:30 to 5:45 pm	Moderator	Alok Gupta , Curtis L. Carlson Schoolwide Chair in Information Management, University of Minnesota
		Shomik Mehndiratta , Practice Manager - Transport, World Bank
		Jen JungEun Oh , Transport Practice Manager, World Bank
		R. Srinivas , Professor of Strategy & Chairperson, Centre for Digital Public Goods, IIM Bengaluru
5:45 to 6:30 pm	Panellists	Mudit Agarwal , CEO, Indian Highways Management Company Ltd. (IHMCL)
		Shivnath Thukral , Vice-President - Public Policy, PhonePe
		Geetam Tiwari , Emeritus Professor, TRIP Centre, IIT Delhi
6:30 - 9:30 pm	Cocktails, Dinner and Networking	

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June 6, 2026		
8:30 am	Registration	
9:00 am to 11:00 am Making AI Work for Humanity		
9:00 to 9:15 am	Chair and Moderator	Ravi Bapna , Curtis L. Carlson Chair Professor in Business Analytics & Information Systems, University of Minnesota
9:15 to 9:35 am	Guidelines versus Guardrails for AI	Marshall Van Alstyne , Allen and Kelli Questrom Professor in Information Systems, Questrom Business School, BU
9:35 to 9:55 am	AI, Inequality and Development: Rethinking Inclusion in the Digital Age	Jean-Louis Arcand , President, Global Development Network
9:55 to 10:15 am	Google AI Overviews and Publisher Traffic: Evidence from a Field Experiment	Saharsh Agarwal , Assistant Professor in Information Systems, ISB
10:15 to 10:35 am	What is Generative AI Worth?	Avinash Collis , Assistant Professor, Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy, CMU
10:35 to 11:00 am	Panel discussion with speakers	Moderated by Ravi Bapna
11:00 to 11:30 am Break - coffee and tea		
11:30 am to 1:30 pm Technology, Regulation and Behavioural Outcomes		
11:30 to 11:45 am	Chair and Moderator	Venkatesh Balasubramaniam , Professor, Department of Engineering Design, IIT Madras
11:45 to 12:05 pm	Amplifying Local News on Social Media: Evidence from a Field Experiment on 60 Million Users	Ananya Sen , Assistant Professor, Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy, CMU
12:05 to 12:25 pm	Revenue, Regulation, and Reaction: Evaluating India's Tax Reform in Online Real-Money Gaming	Madhu Viswanthan , Associate Professor in Marketing, ISB
12:25 to 12:45 pm	On Increasing Performance and Road-Safety Compliance in Life-Improvement Apps: A Field Experiment from Trucking in India	Uttara Madurai Ananthkrishnan , Assistant Professor of Information Systems, Michael G. Foster School of Business, University of Washington
12:45 to 01:05 pm	Mitigating Delays in Criminal Investigations: A Field Experiment of Punitive and Prosocial Messages on Police Work in India	Anandasivam Gopal , President's Chair of Information Systems and Innovation at Nanyang

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		Business School, Nanyang Technological University
01:05 to 01:30 pm	Panel discussion with speakers	Moderated by Venkatesh Balasubramaniam
1:30 to 2:30 pm	Lunch	
2:30 to 4:30 pm	AI, Governance and Future of Work	
2:30 to 2:45 pm	Chair and Moderator	T. Koshy , Former MD, Open Network for Digital Commerce
2:45 to 3:05 pm	Job Rejection Message Content Shapes the Composition of Future Applicant Pools	Sofia Bapna , Associate Professor & Lawrence Fellow, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota
3:05 to 3:25 pm	Space to State Capacity: Using Machine Learning and Alternative Data to Inform Policy	Jonathan Hersh , Associate Professor of Economics and Management Science at the Argyros School of Business, Chapman University
3:25 to 3:45 pm	The Dynamic Effects of AI-based Livestreamers in Livestream Shopping	Amit Mehra , Professor of Information Systems, Naveen Jindal School of Management, UT Dallas
3:45 to 4:05 pm	Governing AI: Trust, Accountability and Public Interest	Shehnaz Ahmed , Senior Resident Fellow & Lead, Law & Technology, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy
4:05 to 4:25 pm	AI and Jobs in India: Employment Growth, Productivity and Workforce Adaptation	Kanika Mahajan , Associate Professor of Economics, Ashoka University
4:25 to 4:45pm	Panel discussion with speakers	Moderated by T. Koshy , Former MD, ONDC
4:45 to 5:00pm	Break - Coffee and Tea	
5:00 to 6:30 pm	Panel - Defining Three Priority Research Programmes for India's AI and DPI Future	
5:00 to 5:15 pm	Chair	Suman Bery , Former Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog
5:15 to 5:30 pm	Moderator	Akhilesh Tilotia , Co-Founder, Thurro
5:30 to 6:30 pm	Panelists	Abhishek Singh , Director General, National Testing Agency
		T. Koshy , Former MD & CEO, Open Network for Digital Commerce

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Karthik Adapa, Regional
Advisor for Digital Health,
World Health Organisation

Bhagwan Chowdhry,
Professor of Finance, ISB

6:30 to 6:50 pm	Reflections and Future Direction	Manish Sabharwal , Vice-Chairman, NCAER Governing Board; Co-Founder, TeamLease Services
6:50 to 7:00 pm	Closing Remarks	Ravi Bapna , Curtis L. Carlson Chair Professor in Business Analytics & Information Systems, University of Minnesota
7:00 - 9:30 pm	Gala Evening	