

SUMMARY

Economist with more than 25 years of experience in international development with proven record in leading the design, preparation, and dissemination of flagship reports and research; leading analysis of policy issues from multi-sector perspectives; engaging in high-level dialogue with senior government officials and global experts; guiding teams in preparation of country partnership strategies, project economic analysis, and development impact assessments; and managing interdisciplinary teams of development professionals.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland, College Park, USA, 1997
M.A. Economics, University of Delhi, India, 1990
B.A. Economics, University of Delhi, India, 1988

EXPERIENCE & AFFILIATIONS

Director, Centre for Economic Growth, National Council of Applied Economic Research (from August 2026)

Senior Affiliate Scholar, Mercatus Center at George Mason University (from June 2026)

Asian Development Bank

Regional Lead Economist for South Asia, Economic Research and Development Indicators Department (2023-June 2026) and **Regional Economic Advisor**, South Asia Department (2021-23).

Director, Economic Analysis and Operational Support Division, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (2019-2021).

Director, Development Economics and Indicators Division, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (2014-2018).

Principal Economist, Country Program and Development Results Unit, India Resident Mission, South Asia Department (2010-2014).

Principal Economist, Senior Economist, and Economist, Development Indicators and Policy Research Division, Economics and Research Department (2003-2010).

Senior Economist and Economist, Economic Analysis and Research Division, Economic Development Resource Center (1997-2000).

Other Work Experience

Fellow, Research Program, East-West Center, Honolulu (2000-2003).

Instructor/Research Assistant/Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Economics, University of Maryland, College Park (1990-1997).

Consultant, International Economics Division, The World Bank, Washington D.C. (1990).

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles, Book Chapters, and Working Papers

“Impacts of the North-South Railway Project in Luzon, Philippines,” (with Julia Bird, Liming Chen, Arturo Corpuz, Eugenia Go, and Jiang Yi) forthcoming in *Asian Economic Policy Review*.

“Export Diversification in Bangladesh: Unlocking Policy Impediments,” (with Edimon Ginting and Mohammad Abdur Razzaque) *Asian Economic Policy Review* 20(1), 2025, 57–75.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/aepr.12487>

“Faster, Taller, Better: Transit Improvements and Land Use Policies,” (with Liming Chen, Yi Jiang, and Andrii Parkhomenko) *Journal of Development Economics* 171, 2024.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2024.103322>

“Labor Market Policies, Informality and Misallocation,” (with Priyaranjan Jha) *Indian Growth and Development Review* 15(1), 2022, 18–59. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IGDR-05-2021-0067>

“Urban Agglomeration and Firm Innovation: Evidence from Asia,” (with Liming Chen and Yi Jiang) *The World Bank Economic Review* 36(2), 2022. 533–558.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/wber/lhab022>

“Place-Based Preferential Tax Policy and Industrial Development: Evidence from India’s Program on Industrially Backward Districts,” (with Yi Jiang and Michelle Radine Rafols) *Journal of Development Economics* 150, 2021.

“The Effects of Labor Regulation on Firms and Exports: Theory and Evidence from Indian Apparel,” (with Asha Sundaram and Aashish Mehta) *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 2021.

“What Works to Control COVID-19? Econometric Analysis of a Cross-Country Panel,” (with Liming Chen, David Raitzer, Rouselle Lavado, and Orlee Velarde) *COVID Economics*, Issue 63, 2021.

“Geographic Concentration in Indian Manufacturing and Service Industries: Evidence from 1998 to 2013,” (with Amrit Amirapu, Yi Jiang, and Alex Klein) *Asian Economic Policy Review* 14, 2019, 148–165.

“Do Asian Countries Upgrade in Global Value Chains? A Novel Approach and Empirical Evidence,” (with Gaaitzen de Vries, Quanrun Chen, and Zhigang Li) *Asian Economic Journal* 33(1), 2019, 13–37. <https://doi.org/10.1111/asej.12166>

“The Past and Future Role of Infrastructure in Asia’s Development,” (with Abdul Abiad and Yi Jiang) in Bambang Susantono, Donghyun Park, and Shu Tian (eds.), *Infrastructure Financing in Asia*, Asian Development Bank and World Scientific, 2019.

“Wages Over the Course of Structural Transformation: Evidence from India,” (with Rhea Molato) *Asian Development Review* 36(2), 2019, 1–28.

“The Growth of Indian Cities and ‘Good’ Jobs: Evidence from the 2000s,” (with Yi Jiang and Debolina Kundu) *India Policy Forum*, 2018.

“Coastal Employment Zones: A Catalyst for Transforming Indian Manufacturing,” (with Sabyasachi Mitra) in Amitabh Kant (ed.), *The Path Ahead: Transformative Ideas for India*, Rupa Publishers, 2018.

“Urban Agglomeration Effects in India: Evidence from Town-Level Data,” (with Yi Jiang and Radine Michelle Rafols) *Asian Development Review* 34(2), 2017, 201–228.

“Labor Regulations, Employment and Wages: Evidence from India’s Apparel Sector,” (with Nidhi Kapoor, Aashish Mehta, and Asha Sundaram) *Asian Economic Policy Review* 12, 2017, 70–90.

“The Role of Middle Class in Democratic Diffusion,” (with Natalie Chun, Muhammad Habibur Rahman, and Mehmet A. Ulubaşoğlu) *International Review of Economics and Finance*, 2017.

“The Impact of Labor Regulations on Jobs and Wages in India: Evidence from a Natural Experiment,” (with Rahul Ahluwalia, Mudit Kapoor, and Arvind Panagariya). Columbia-SIPA Working Paper No. 2018-02, 2018.

“Growth, Structural Change, and Poverty Reduction: Evidence from India,” (with Sneha Lamba and Abhijit Sengupta) in K. V. Ramaswamy (ed.), *Labour, Employment and Economic Growth: The Indian Experience*, Cambridge University Press, 2015.

“The Determinants of Capital Intensity in Manufacturing: The Role of Factor Market Imperfections,” (with Devashish Mitra and Asha Sundaram) *World Development* 51, 2013, 91–103.

“Labor Regulations and the Firm Size Distribution in Indian Manufacturing,” (with Karl Jandoc) in Jagdish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya (eds.), *Reforms and Economic Transformation in India*, Oxford University Press, 2013.

“What Explains the High Capital Intensity of Indian Manufacturing?” (with Devashish Mitra and Asha Sundaram) *Indian Growth and Development Review* 6(2), 2013, 212–241.

“Trade Liberalization and Unemployment: Theory and Evidence from India,” (with Devashish Mitra, Priya Ranjan, and Reshad N. Ahsan) *Journal of Development Economics* 97(2), 2012, 269–280.

“Trade and Services Liberalization and Wage Inequality in India,” (with Aashish Mehta) *International Review of Economics and Finance* 23, 2012, 75–90.

“Trade Liberalization and Poverty Reduction: New Evidence from Indian States,” (with Jewelwayne S. Cain and Devashish Mitra) in Jagdish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya (eds.), *India’s Reforms: How They Produced Inclusive Growth*, Oxford University Press, 2012.

“Informal Sector Enterprises: Some Measurement Issues,” (with Kaushal Joshi and Glenita Amoranto) *Review of Income and Wealth* 57, 2011, 143–165 (Special Issue).

“Accounting for Inequality in India: Evidence from Household Expenditures,” (with Jewelwayne S. Cain, Rhoda Magsombol, and Ajay Tandon) *World Development* 38(3), 2010, 282–297.

“Workers’ Earnings in the Philippines: Comparing Self-Employment with Wage Employment,” (with Karl Jandoc) *Asian Development Review* 27(1), 2010, 43–79.

“What Constrains Indian Manufacturing?” (with Poonam Gupta and Utsav Kumar) in Barry Eichengreen, Poonam Gupta, and Rajiv Kumar (eds.), *Emerging Giants: The Chinese and Indian Economies in Comparative Perspective*, Oxford University Press, 2010.

“Inequality in Asia: What Do the Data Show?” (with Jewelwayne S. Cain and Rhoda Magsombol) in Ifzal Ali and Juzhong Zhuang (eds.), *Inequality and Inclusive Growth in Asia: Measurement, Policy Issues, and Country Studies*, Anthem Press, 2010.

“The Distribution of Firm Size in India: What Can Survey Data Tell Us?” (with Karl Jandoc) *ADB Economics Working Paper Series* No. 213, 2010.

“Trade Liberalization and Wage Inequality in the Philippines,” (with Karl Jandoc) Working paper. Invited to revise and resubmit at *Review of Income and Wealth*.

“Public Goods Access and Juvenile Sex Ratios in Rural India: Evidence from the 1991 and 2001 Village Census Data,” (with Anil Deolalikar and Rohini Somanathan) *ADB Economics Working Paper Series* No. 167, 2009.

“Big Reforms but Small Payoffs: Explaining the Weak Record of Growth in Indian Manufacturing,” (with Poonam Gupta and Utsav Kumar) *India Policy Forum* 5, 2009.

“Poverty Impact of the Economic Slowdown in Developing Asia: Some Scenarios,” (with Jewelwayne S. Cain and Rhoda Magsombol) *ADB Economics Working Paper Series* No. 153, 2009.

“Comment on ‘What’s Not Converging? East Asia’s Relative Performance in Income, Health and Education’,” *Asian Economic Policy Review* 3(1), 2008, 38–39.

“Correcting for Biases When Estimating Production Functions: An Illusion of the Laws of Algebra?” (with Jesus Felipe and John McCombie) *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 32(3), 2008, 441–459.

“Trade Reforms, Labor Regulations and Labor-Demand Elasticities: Empirical Evidence from India,” (with Devashish Mitra and K. V. Ramaswamy) *Review of Economics and Statistics* 89(3), 2007, 466–481.

“Trade Liberalization, Labor Market Institutions and Poverty Reduction: Evidence from Indian States,” (with Devashish Mitra and Beyza Ural) *India Policy Forum* 3, 2007.

“Institutions and Policies for Growth and Poverty Reduction: The Role of Private Sector Development,” (with Devashish Mitra and Mehmet A. Ulubasoglu) *Asian Development Review* 24(1), 2007, 69–116.

“Under-Representation of Disadvantaged Classes in Colleges: What Do the Data Tell Us?” (with Aashish Mehta) *Economic and Political Weekly* 41(35), 2006, 3791–3796.

“Labor Markets in India: Issues and Perspectives,” (with T. C. A. Anant, Prabhu Mohapatra, R. Nagaraj, and S. K. Sasikumar) in Jesus Felipe and Rana Hasan (eds.), *Labor Markets in Asia: Issues and Perspectives*, Palgrave Macmillan for the Asian Development Bank, 2006.

“Industry Matters for Poverty: A Critique of Agricultural Fundamentalism,” (with M. G. Quibria) *Kyklos* 57, 2004, 253–264.

“Does Investing in Technology Affect Exports? Evidence from Indian Firms,” (with Mayank Raturi) *Review of Development Economics* 7(2), 2003, 279–293.

“The Impact of Trade and Labor Market Regulations on Employment and Wages: Evidence from Developing Countries,” (with Devashish Mitra) in Rana Hasan and Devashish Mitra (eds.), *The Impact of Trade on Labor: Issues, Perspectives, and Experiences from Developing Asia*, Elsevier Science B.V., 2003.

“The Impact of Imported and Domestic Technologies on the Productivity of Firms: Evidence from Indian Manufacturing Firms,” *Journal of Development Economics* 69, 2002, 23–49.

“The Impact of Trade on Workers: Evidence from the Philippines,” (with Tianshu Chu and Sang Hyop Lee) *International Center for the Study of East Asian Development (ICSEAD) Working Paper Series*, No. 2002–17. 2002.

“Returns to Scale in a Highly Regulated Economy: Evidence from Indian Firms,” (with Brian Fikkert) *Journal of Development Economics* 56(1), 1998, 51–79.

Edited Volumes

Labor Markets in Asia: Issues and Perspectives (co-edited with Jesus Felipe), Palgrave Macmillan for the Asian Development Bank, 2006.

The Impact of Trade on Labor: Issues, Perspectives and Experience from Developing Asia, (co-edited with Devashish Mitra), Elsevier Science B.V., 2003.

Short Articles and Blogs

“Strategies to Harness the Economic Potential of India’s Cities,” (with Mohammad Athar and Lei Song) **Asian Development Blog**. 2024. <https://development.asia/insight/strategies-harness-economic-potential-indias-cities>

“The Role of Cities in Ensuring Good Jobs.” **Ideas for India**. 2022. <https://www.ideasforindia.in/topics/urbanisation/the-role-of-cities-in-ensuring-good-jobs.html>

“In India, Capturing the Value of Land Near Metro Stations is Critical,” (with Liming Chen) **Asian Development Blog**. 2022. <https://blogs.adb.org/blog/india-capturing-value-land-near-metro-stations-critical>

“Paid Sick Leave as a Tool for COVID-19 Control,” (with Glenita Amoranto, Rouselle Lavado, and David Raitzer). **ADB Brief**, Number 161, December 2020.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/BRF200394-2>

“What Works to Control COVID-19?” (with Liming Chen, David A. Raitzer, Rouselle F. Lavado, and Orlee Velarde. **Asian Development Blog**. 2020.

<https://blogs.adb.org/blog/what-works-to-control-COVID-19>

“Asia Must Rethink its Cities to Make the Most of Urbanization.” **Nikkei Asian Review**. 2019.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/Asia-must-rethink-its-cities-to-make-the-most-of-urbanization>

“Why Developing Asia Should Not Fear Technological Progress.” **Asian Development Blog**. 2018.

<https://blogs.adb.org/blog/why-developing-asia-should-not-fear-technological-progress>

ADB FLAGSHIP PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Cities as Growth Hubs: Knowledge Framework, 2025. ADB and World Bank. *Report for Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.*

Harnessing the Economic Potential of India’s Cities, 2024. *Report for NITI Aayog, Government of India.* <https://www.adb.org/publications/harnessing-economic-potential-india-cities>

Realizing India’s Potential for Transit-Oriented Development and Land Value Capture: A Qualitative and Quantitative Approach, 2022. <http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/SPR220271-2>

Fostering Growth and Inclusion in Asia’s Cities. *Asian Development Outlook 2019 Update.* <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/524596/ado2019-update-theme-chapter.pdf>

How Technology Affects Jobs. *Asian Development Outlook 2018.*

<https://www.adb.org/publications/asian-development-outlook-2018-how-technology-affects-jobs>

Meeting Asia’s Infrastructure Needs. *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2017.*

<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/227496/special-report-infrastructure.pdf>

Scaling New Heights: Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor, India’s First Coastal Corridor. ADB. 2016.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/scaling-new-heights-vizag-chennai-industrial-corridor>

A Smarter Future: Skills, Education, and Growth in Asia. *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2015.*

<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/175162/ki2015-special-chapter.pdf>

Conceptual Development Plan: Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor, India’s First Coastal Corridor. ADB. 2014.

India-ADB Development Partnership. ADB. 2013.

Enterprises in Asia: Fostering Dynamism in SMEs, *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2009.*

<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/27727/ki2009-special-chapter.pdf>

Comparing Poverty across Countries: The Role of Purchasing Power Parities. *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2008.*

Inequality in Asia. *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific* 2007.

Labor Markets in Asia: Promoting Full, Productive, and Decent Employment. *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific* 2005.

Sri Lanka: Improving the Rural and Urban Investment Climate. ADB-World Bank Investment Climate Assessment, 2005.

Poverty in Asia: Measurement, Estimates, and Prospects. *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific* 2004.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

Kautilya Economic Conclave 2025, 2024, and 2023, organized by Ministry of Finance (Government of India) and Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi.

Dr. P.K. Gopalakrishnan Memorial Lecture, Centre for Development Studies (March 2025), Thiruvananthapuram.

Lecture at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (November 2023), Mussoorie.

National Urban Conclave, organized by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Government of Uttar Pradesh (September 2022), Lucknow.

Columbia University India Economic Summit 2022 (April 2022), Hybrid.

ICRIER-NBER-NCAER 21st Annual Neemrana Conference (December 2019), Neemrana.

7th Roundtable OECD AMRO ADB ADBI ERIA (June 2019), Jakarta.

Columbia University Conference on the Indian Economy, (October 2017), New York.

NCAER-Brookings Institution, India Policy Forum (August 2017), New Delhi.

ADB Institute workshop on Housing Policy in Emerging Asia (December 2014), Tokyo.

Stanford Center for International Development India Conference (June 2014), Palo Alto.

Columbia University Conference on India's Reforms (September 2012), New York.