



INDIA POLICY FORUM 2026

August 5-8, 2026

NCAER, T-2 Auditorium,
11, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi 110002

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

7:00 pm

Pre-Conference Dinner

The Oberoi Hotel

Thursday, August 6, 2026

8:45 am

Registration and Coffee/Tea

9:00–9:05 am

Lighting of the Lamp

9:05–9:25 am

Welcome Remarks

Suresh Goyal, Director General, NCAER

Session 1

9:25–9:45 am

IPF Keynote Address

Nandan Nilekani, Co-Founder and Chairman, Infosys; Chairman, NCAER Governing Board

Session 2

9:45–11:15 am

Economic Reforms, Growth Agenda, Ease of Doing Business, and Deregulation

Chair: **S. Mahendra Dev**, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

Speakers: **Ajay Shah**, Senior Research Fellow and Co-founder, XKDR Forum
Akshay Jaitly, Founding Partner, Trilegal

Panellists:

- (1) **Devesh Kapur**, Starr Foundation Professor of South Asia Studies, Johns Hopkins University
- (2) **Pravin Krishna**, Chung Ju Yung Professor of International Economics, Johns Hopkins University
- (3) **Rana Hasan**, Director, Centre for Economic Growth of States, NCAER; formerly Regional Economic Advisor, South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank

11:15–11:35 am

Coffee/Tea

Session 3

11:35–12:00 noon

Address & Release of the IPF 2025 Volume

Release of the *IPF 2025 Volume*

Panellists:

- (1) **Manish Sabharwal**, Co-founder, TeamLease Services and Vice Chairman, NCAER Governing Board
- (2) **Franziska Ohnsorge**, Chief Economist, Asia, The World Bank
- (3) **Anil K. Sharma**, Secretary and Operations Director, NCAER
- (4) **Karthik Muralidharan**, Tata Chancellor's Professor of Economics, University of California, San Diego; Non-resident Senior Fellow, NCAER
- (5) **Pravin Krishna**, Chung Ju Yung Professor of International Economics, Johns Hopkins University

12:00–12:30 pm	Keynote Address Ashok Lahiri , Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog
12:30–1:30 pm	Lunch
Session 4 1:30–3:00 pm	India's Development Dreams: A Macro-structural Perspective Chair: Poonam Gupta , Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India Speakers: Alok Johri , Professor, McMaster University Amartya Lahiri , Professor, University of British Columbia Discussants: (1) Aurélien Kruse , Lead Economist, The World Bank (2) Soumyakanti Ghosh , Group Chief Economic Advisor, State Bank of India
3:00–3:15 pm	Coffee/Tea
Session 5 3:15–4:00 pm	Lecture: Technological, Institutional and Policy Innovations in the Era of Significant Global Changes: Lessons from History and Prospects for the Future Chair: Manish Sabharwal , Co-founder, TeamLease Services; Vice Chairman, NCAER Governing Board Speaker: Arunava Majumdar , Dean, Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, Stanford University
Session 6 4:00–5:00 pm	Evolving Role of Think Tanks in Evidence-based Policymaking Chair: Rajendra Pawar , Chairman and Co-founder, NIIT Panellists: (1) Suresh Goyal , Director General, NCAER (2) Poonam Gupta , Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (3) Shekhar Shah , Chair of Academic Advisory Council and Board Member, Indian School of Public Policy; and Advisory Board Member, Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability, Monash University (4) Suman Bery , Former Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog (5) Rakesh Mohan , President and Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (6) Shashanka Bhide , Honorary Senior Advisor, NCAER
5:00–5:45 pm	Coffee/Tea
Session 7 5:45pm	Delegates to be seated

6:00–7:15 pm	CD Deshmukh Lecture
	Chair: Manish Sabharwal , Co-founder, TeamLease Services and Vice Chairman, NCAER Governing Board
	Speaker: Nirmala Sitharaman , Hon'ble Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Government of India
6:00 pm	Arrival Suresh Goyal , Director General, NCAER
6:05 – 6:10 pm	Introduction Manish Sabharwal
6:10–6:30 pm	Lecture Viksit Bharat: Our Ambition and Destiny Nirmala Sitharaman , Hon'ble Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Government of India
6:30–7: 05 pm	Q&A Moderator: Manish Sabharwal
7:05–7:15 pm	Vote of Thanks Suresh Goyal
7:30 pm	Dinner at NCAER Campus

Friday, August 7, 2026

8:45 am	Registration and Coffee/Tea
Session 8 9:00–10:30 am	Macro Perspective of Bihar's Development: Achievements, Unfinished Agenda, and the Way Forward
	Chair: Arvind Panagariya , Professor, Columbia University; formerly Chairman, 16 th Finance Commission
	Speakers: Ratna Sahay , Professor, NCAER Santosh Kumar Gautam , Professor of Development and Global Health Economics, University of Notre Dame Nishith Prakash , Professor of Public Policy and Economics, Northeastern University Aakash Dev , Fellow, NCAER
	Discussants: (1) Karthik Muralidharan , Tata Chancellor's Professor of Economics, University of California, San Diego; Non-resident Senior Fellow, NCAER (2) Surjit Bhalla , formerly, Executive Director for India at the International Monetary Fund (3) Pratyaya Amrit , Chief Secretary, Bihar (TBC)
10:30–10:50 am	Coffee/Tea
Session 9 10:50–12:15 pm	Is Food Processing the Missing Link in Development?
	Chair: Suresh Goyal , Director General, NCAER
	Speaker: Shoumitro Chatterjee , Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University
	Discussants: (1) Mekhala Krishnamurthy , Associate Professor, Ashoka University (2) Shilpa Aggarwal , Associate Professor, Indian School of Business (3) Harish Damodaran , National Editor, <i>The Indian Express</i>

Session 10
12:15–1:30 pm

Lecture

Chair: **Ashish Dhawan**, Founder, The Convergence Foundation; Member, NCAER Governing Board

Speakers: **State-driven Reform Agenda**
Arvind Panagariya, Professor of Economics, Columbia University; formerly, Chairman, 16th Finance Commission

Capital Mobilisation and Macro Policy: Industrial Dynamism and Innovation in India
Anuradha Thakur, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs

1:30–2:15 pm **Lunch**

Session 11
2:15–3:45 pm

The Persistence of Contract Labour: Evidence from Indian Manufacturing

Chair: **Vandana Gurnani**, Secretary, Ministry of Labour

Speakers: **Rahul Singh**, Assistant Professor, SP Jain Institute of Management and Research
Vidhya Soundararajan, Assistant Professor, Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL)

Discussants:

- (1) **Farzana Afridi**, Visiting Professor, NCAER; Professor, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi
- (2) **Ritam Chaurey**, Assistant Professor, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University
- (3) **Radhicka Kapoor**, Senior Employment Specialist, Decent Work Team for South Asia, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- (4) **Reshma Anand**, Regional Director, Ford Foundation

3:45–4:00 pm

Coffee/Tea

Session 12
4:00–5:30 pm

Growing Impact of AI and DPI

Moderator: **Manish Sabharwal**, Co-founder, TeamLease Services and Vice Chairman, NCAER Governing Board

Panellists:

- (1) **V. Anantha Nageswaran**, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India
- (2) **Sam Asher**, Associate Professor, Imperial College London and Visiting Professor, NCAER
- (3) **Ravi Bapna**, Curtis L. Carlson Chair Professor in Business Analytics and Information Systems, University of Minnesota
- (4) **Shankar Maruwada**, Co-founder and CEO, EkStep Foundation/Co-founder and CEO, Centre for Digital Public Infrastructure
- (5) **Sanjay Jain**, Director, Digital Public Infrastructure, Gates Foundation

5:30–6:00 pm

Coffee/Tea

Session 13
6:00–7:30 pm

TN Srinivasan Memorial Lecture

What Do Super-star Firms Do?

Chair: **Suman Bery**, Former Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog

Speaker: **Chang-Tai Hsieh**, Phyllis and Irwin Winkelried Distinguished Service Professor of Economics and PCL Faculty Scholar, University of Chicago

7:30–7:45 pm

Vote of Thanks: Anil K. Sharma, Secretary and Operations Director, NCAER

8:00 pm

Dinner at NCAER Campus

Workshop on Policy Dialogues on Advancing State Capacity in Governance, Public Finance and Sustainable Growth

To provide a platform for policymakers, researchers, academicians, and State Governments to deliberate on key policy challenges and opportunities in strengthening state capacity for achieving the vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047*, this workshop aims to facilitate evidence-based discussions on improving governance, public finances and promoting sustainable growth. It will also encourage knowledge sharing, dissemination of global best practices, and foster collaboration between governments, academia, and research institutions to support informed policymaking.

9:30–9:45 Inaugural Opening Remarks, CEO NITI Aayog

9:45–10:00 Keynote Address, Ashok Lahiri, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog

10:00–10:15 Address by Suresh Goyal, Director General, NCAER

Session 1

10:30–11:30 am State Governance and Finances

Chair **Arvind Panagariya**, Professor, Columbia University; formerly, Chairman, 16th Finance Commission

Speakers:

- (1) Alok Johri**, Professor, McMaster University (10 min)
- (2) Amartya Lahiri**, Professor, The University of British Columbia
Presentation (10 min)
- (3) Ravi Bapna**, Curtis L. Carlson Chair Professor in Business Analytics and Information Systems, University of Minnesota
Governance Challenges in Context of Technology (10 min)
- (4) Suresh Goyal**, Director General, NCAER
Asset Monetisation (10 min)
- (5) Closing Remarks by Chair** (10 min)

Session 2

11:40–12:30 pm Panel Discussion: Industrial Policies

Chair and Moderator: **Franziska Ohnsorge**, Chief Economist for Asia, The World Bank

Panellists:

- (1) Nagesh Kumar**, Director and Chief Executive, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development
- (2) Laveesh Bhandari**, President and Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)
- (3) Shekhar Aiyar**, Director and Chief Executive, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)
- (4) Chang-Tai Hsieh**, Phyllis and Irwin Winkelried Distinguished Service Professor of Economics and PCL Faculty Scholar, University of Chicago
- (5) Anil K. Sharma**, Secretary and Operations Director, NCAER

12:30–2:00 pm Networking Lunch

Session 3

2:00–3:10 pm

SDGs – Mapping Budgetary Expenditure to Outcomes

Chair: **R. Kavita Rao**, Director, NIPFP

Speakers:

- (1) **Rajib Kumar Sen**, Programme Director, Health & Family Welfare, State and Finances, Sustainable Development Goals, Women & Child Development;
Setting the context (10 min)
- (2) **Santosh Kumar Gautam**, Professor of Development and Global Health Economics, University of Notre Dame
Evidence-based Budgeting for Sustainable Development: Lessons for Indian States (10 min)
- (3) **Karthik Muralidharan**, Tata Chancellor's Professor of Economics, University of California, San Diego; Non-resident Senior Fellow, NCAER
Accelerating Human Development: Systems and Interventions (10 min)
- (4) **Ratna Sahay**, Professor, NCAER
Gender Inequality in India, SDGs, and Link with Macroeconomy (10 min)

Session 4

3:10–4:00 pm

Valedictory: A representative from the State Government - *to be Identified* On key takeaways from the conference

- (1) **K.V. Raju**, Member, NITI Aayog
Topic to be decided
- (2) **Suresh Goyal**, Director General, NCAER

Vote of Thanks, **Anil K. Sharma**, Secretary and Operations Director, NCAER

4:00–5:30 pm

Networking High Tea

Co-hosts: NCAER, NITI Aayog and The World Bank

