

National Conference on **MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING 2022**



16-17 March 2022



Virtual

SESSION DETAILS

	16 th March 2022	17 th March 2022
Session-1	<p>Conference Inaugural 10:00 AM - 10:20 AM</p> <p>Welcome: Director General, DMEO</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog</p> <p>Release of Compendium of Essays 10:20 AM - 11:40 AM</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for maximizing public expenditure efficiency and fostering cooperative federalism</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Sekhar Bonu, DG, DMEO</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India 2. Ms. Vini Mahajan, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Government of India 3. Mr. Adil Zainulbhai, Chairman, Capacity Building Commission and Quality Council of India 4. Dr. Emmanuel Jimenez, Director General, Independent Evaluation, Asian Development Bank 	<p>10:00 AM - 11:30 AM</p> <p>Strengthening Evaluation Capacities in States</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Paramjyoti Chattopadhyay, M&E Specialist, DMEO, NITI Aayog</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Vasantha Kumar, Executive Director, Uttar Pradesh Technical Support Unit, University of Manitoba 2. Dr. Chaya Degaonkar, Additional Chief Evaluation Officer, Karnataka Evaluation Authority, Planning Dept., Govt. of Karnataka 3. Dr. Sanjeev Sridharan, Country Lead, BMGF India 4. Mr. Antony Cyriac, Deputy Director General, DMEO, NITI Aayog
Session-2	<p>11:45 AM - 01:00 PM</p> <p>Localisation of outcome-monitoring</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Kanchan Dyuti Maiti, Former Planning, M&E specialist in UNICEF</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Kunal Kumar, Mission Director, SMART Cities, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India 2. Mr. Rakesh Ranjan, Sr. Consultant (Security Cell/MOD/MHA/Aspirational Districts), NITI Aayog 3. Dr. Manoj Pant, ACEO, Centre for Policy Research and Good Governance, Uttarakhand 4. Ms. Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India 	<p>11:45 AM - 01:00 PM</p> <p>Designing Inclusive Evaluations to be responsive to outcomes for children, adolescents and women</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Yasumasa Kimura, Deputy Representative, UNICEF India</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Maaïke Bijker, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist (Research), UNICEF India</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Rituu B Nanda, MEL & Community Processes Consultant, Global Fund for Children 2. Dr. Renu Singh, Executive Director, Young Lives India 3. Mr. Khalil Bitar, Evaluator and M&E Specialist (Germany) Chair, EvalYouth Global Network

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Session-3	<p>02:00 PM - 03:15 PM</p> <p>Creating robust data systems and processes to enable data use for decentralised decision making</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Poornima Dore, Director - Analytics, Insights & Impact, TATA Trusts</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan, Chief Secretary (Retd), Govt of Tamil Nadu 2. Mr. Rahul Kapoor, Director, SMART Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India 3. Mr. Rama Kamaraju, Sr. Consultant (Aspirational Districts Programme), NITI Aayog 4. Mr. Viraj Tyagi, CEO, eGov Foundation 	<p>02:00 PM - 03:15 PM</p> <p>Evidence needs for sustainable food systems and livelihoods</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Pradnya Paithankar, SDG, Climate Change, DRR and SSTC Manager, WFP India</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Marie-Aude Even, Senior Technical Specialist, IFAD India 2. Dr. Shivendra Srivastava, Senior Scientist, NIAP-ICAR 3. Prof. Srijit Mishra, Faculty, IGIDR 4. Mr. Mihir Bhatt, Director, AIDMI Ahmedabad
Session-4	<p>03:30 PM - 04:45 PM</p> <p>Role of data, technology and innovation for more inclusive M&E practices</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ashish Desai, Director, DMEQ, NITI Aayog</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Rudra Sensarma, Professor of Economics, IIM Kozhikode 2. Ms Linda Raftree, Independent Consultant, Founder and Organizer MERL Tech 3. Mr. Santosh Misra, Former Commissioner e-Governance and Commissioner Transport & State Transport Authority, Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency 4. Mr. Prashant Kumar Mittal, Deputy Director General, NIC and Managing Director, NICS 	<p>03:30 PM - 04:45 PM</p> <p>Pathways for Institutionalising Evaluation at National Level</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Urvashi Prasad, Director, DMEQ, NITI Aayog</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Ian Goldman, Advisor: Evaluation and Evidence Systems, Global Evaluation Initiative, CLEAR Anglophone Africa 2. Mr. Asela Kalugampitiya, President, Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA) 3. Mr. Alok Mishra, Additional Director General (Media & Communication), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India 4. Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Core Group Member, Evaluation Community of India (ECOI)
Session-5	<p>5:00 PM - 6:15 PM</p> <p>Taking a participatory and citizen-centric approach to Monitoring & Evaluation</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Basavaraju R, Executive Director, GRAAM</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Yogesh Kumar, Executive Director, Samarthan 2. Ms. Shilpa Nag C T, IAS, Commissioner, Rural Development (MGNREGS), Govt. of Karnataka 3. Dr. Ananya Samajdar, Head of Research, GRAAM 4. Dr. (Flt Lt) MA Balasubramanya, Advisor, Community Processes & Comprehensive Primary Health Care, NHSRC, MoHFW, GoI 	<p>Closing Ceremony</p> <p>05:00 PM - 06:15 PM</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey, Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India</p> <p>Anchor: Dr. Abinash Dash, Joint Director, DMEQ</p> <p>Rapporteur presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Shailendra Dwivedi, JS, DMEQ 2. Mr Antony Cyriac, DDG, DMEQ <p>Closing Remarks: DG, DMEQ</p>

SPEAKER BIOS

SESSION-1



Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran

*Chief Economic Adviser,
Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India*

Prior to this appointment as CEA, Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran was a writer, author, teacher and consultant. He has written a weekly Mint column for fifteen years on Tuesdays, since 2007. He has co-authored four books: (i) The Rise of Finance – Causes, Consequences and Cures, (ii) Derivatives, (iii) Can India Grow? and (iv) The Economics of Derivatives.

He has taught at several business schools and institutes of management in India and in Singapore. He was the Dean of the IFMR Graduate School of Business and a distinguished Visiting Professor of Economics at KREA University. He was one of the founders of Aavishkaar Venture Capital Fund and the Takshashila Institution. He has served on the Academic Advisory Board of DAV Schools in Tamil Nadu and the Indian School of Public Policy. He was a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India from 2019 to 2021.

In his corporate career spanning seventeen years from 1994 to 2011, he was a Currency Economist at the Union Bank of Switzerland, Head of Research and Investment Consulting in Credit Suisse Private Banking in Asia, Head of Asia Research and Global Chief Investment Officer at Bank Julius Baer. He was an independent Director on the Boards of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, Sundaram Fasteners, TVS Sri Chakra Tyres, Delphi TVS and Aparajitha Corporate Services.

In 1985, he received a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He earned his doctoral degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in 1994 for his work on exchange rate behaviour.



Ms. Vini Mahajan

*Secretary,
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Government of India*

Ms. Vini Mahajan, IAS (Punjab: 1987) assumed charge as Secretary in the Ministry of Jal Shakti Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation on 3rd January, 2022. Ms. Mahajan is an MBA from Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta, where she was placed on the Roll of Honour. Prior to that she did B.A. (Honours) Economics from Lady Shri Ram College (LSR), Delhi University. Prior to this, she was serving as Punjab Chief Secretary from 26th June 2020. Earlier she remained Additional Chief Secretary of the Departments of Housing & Urban Development, Government of Punjab and Industries & Commerce, IT and Investment Promotion.

Prior to this, she was ACS/ Principal Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Welfare from April, 2012 for 5 years. She also served as Principal Secretary, Department of Medical Education and Research, and Principal Secretary Finance, Punjab. Ms Mahajan served as Joint Secretary to the Prime Minister of India from 2007-2012, and earlier in 2004-05 as Director in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

Prior to this she served in various capacities in the state of Punjab, as M.D. of the Punjab Infrastructure Development Board, as the first Director Disinvestment in the state as Secretary, Power and as Special Secretary, Expenditure. She has over 8 years' experience in cutting edge positions at the field level, including as Deputy Commissioner (the first woman to be posted as such in Punjab in 25 years). Ms Mahajan received numerous academic awards, including the National Talent Search Scholarship. She was a Hubert Humphrey fellow based at American University in Washington DC in 2000-2001.



Mr. Adil Zainulbhai

*Chairman,
Capacity Building Commission and Quality Council of India*

Adil Zainulbhai is the Chairman of the Capacity Building Commission of India (CBC), which was set up by the Honourable Prime Minister of India since April, 2021. He also serves as the Chairman of the Quality Council of India since 2014. He is also the Chairman of Network 18 and TV18 and is currently on the Boards of Reliance Industries Ltd., Larsen & Toubro Ltd., and Cipla.

As Chairman, CBC, he leads the Commission in executing the vision of the Honourable Prime Minister – Mission Karmayogi – to help each civil servant have the training and tools needed to deliver performance for the citizen of India. CBC is currently working on upgrading the 750 Central Training Institutions, helping each Ministry develop a Capability Building Plan (CBP), and creating an Annual Civil Services report. CBC is working with Railways to train 100,000 citizen-facing employees to become more citizen centric, among many interventions to get citizen centricity into government.

As Chairman, QCI, Adil is involved in many initiatives across the government to improve Quality of Goods and Services. Through QCI, he has been involved in measuring Swachh Bharat and has worked with over 23 Ministries. He is involved in projects in Infra, Health Care, Education, Coal and others. QCI has grown 10X over the last 5 years. Adil retired as Chairman of McKinsey, India after 34 years at McKinsey, and the last 10 in India.

Recently, Adil co-edited the book, 'Reimagining India' which featured 60 authors including prominent businessmen, academics, economists, authors and journalists. Adil grew up in Bombay and graduated in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology. He also has an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. Adil is very active in community and social causes. He is a Board member of the Piramal Swasthya, Piramal Foundation, and Anant National University. In his spare time, he enjoys sailing in Mumbai harbour.



Dr. Emmanuel Jimenez

*Director General,
Independent Evaluation, Asian Development Bank*

Emmanuel Jimenez is Director General, Independent Evaluation Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Reporting to ADB's Board of Directors, his responsibilities include assessing ADB's development effectiveness, as well as providing lessons to inform ADB operations. Prior to joining ADB, Mr. Jimenez worked as an Independent Consultant who provided advice, and conducted research and training on evaluation, economics, development management, education and social protection programs. Prior to this, he was the Executive Director and CEO of Zie. In this role, he led and conducted impact evaluations and evidence reviews. He provided strategic direction to the organization as it championed the generation and use of evidence to guide decisions regarding policies and programs that improve lives in low and middle-income countries. Previously, Mr. Jimenez had worked for 30 years in the World Bank Group (WBG) and held several senior management roles across several departments such as the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), the South Asia, East Asia, and Pacific Groups, and the Policy Research Department. Mr. Jimenez was a faculty member of the Economics Department of Western University in London, Canada. Throughout his career, he has published extensively, including articles in peer-reviewed professional journals, books and reports on economic development and served as managing editor of several international development journals. Dr. Jimenez is a national of Philippines and Canada. He holds a Doctorate in Economics from Brown University in the United States, a Master's degree in Economics from University of ccToronto in Canada, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from McGill University in Canada.



Dr. Sekhar Bonu

Director General,

Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog

Dr. Sekhar Bonu joined as the Director General of Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) in April, 2019. Before joining NITI Aayog, Dr. Bonu worked with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila for 15 years. At ADB, he worked in health, urban infrastructure development and regional cooperation, mainly in South Asia.

Dr. Bonu worked in the Indian Administrative Services and served as a civil servant in Rajasthan between 1987-2003, among others, as district magistrate, director of primary and secondary education, chief executive officer of state-owned enterprises.

Dr. Sekhar Bonu has a PhD from Johns Hopkins University and is a Chartered Financial Analyst charter holder. He has a wide range of research and operational interests and has published in peer-review journals.

SESSION-2



Mr. Kunal Kumar

Mission Director,

SMART Cities, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India

Mr. Kunal Kumar is the Joint Secretary and Mission Director (Smart Cities), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. He is an Electrical Engineer from IIT-Roorkee, India, and has completed his Masters in Public Management from National University of Singapore jointly conducted with Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, USA. A visionary thought leader and a meticulous strategist, he has been using his expertise to build 100 Smart Cities in India as part of the country's ambitious Smart Cities Mission. He firmly believes that cities are built around communities and that technology has to be used in a way that helps create inclusion and supports bottom-up innovation. His strategy is three-pronged: upscaling economic opportunities, innovation and entrepreneurship; evidence-based policy and decision making; and capacity building of all stakeholders. Some of the achievements that he has conceived and launched are: Smart Cities Digital Payment Awards, Ease of Living Index and Municipal Performance Index, DataSmart Cities Strategy, Assessment Framework (DMAF), Smart Cities Open Data and India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX) platforms. He has received several accolades for his work such as Prime Minister's award for excellence in AADHAR Governance 2012, the best e-governed district in the Country 2009, Prime Minister's IndoSan award 2017 and many more.



Mr. Rakesh Ranjan

Sr. Consultant

(Security Cell/MOD/MHA/Aspirational Districts), NITI Aayog

Mr. Rakesh Ranjan, IPS, is Senior Consultant, Niti Aayog, Government of India. Presently, he is the Mission Director of the Aspirational District programme which aims at rapid transformation of identified under-developed pockets in India. This programme actively supports transition towards data-based governance where districts are being ranked on the basis of real time data. Mr. Ranjan is also heading a team on creation of a federal level knowledge portal 'Ease of living Index.' He has received the Presidents' Police medal for Meritorious Service in 2007 and President's medal for Distinguished Service in 2016.



Dr. Manoj Pant

ACEO,

Centre for Policy Research and Good Governance, Uttarakhand

Dr. Manoj Kumar Pant is a doctorate in Statistics and has been working with the Government of Uttarakhand for the last 28 years. He has held various positions with different government departments like Department of Planning, Department of Drinking Water (Swajal- World Bank Project), Department of Rural Development (Ajeevika), ITDA and State Planning Commission. In addition, he has also worked with Public Private Partnership Cell of the Uttarakhand Government. Currently he is serving as Additional Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) and Additional CEO of CPPGG. A specialist in Public Finance, Dr. Pant has written various articles and papers on Weighted SDG Index, Animal husbandry, Analysis of Economic loss incurred during 2013 Disaster, Budgetary practices and policy evaluation to name a few. An avid statistician Dr. Pant has been part of many conferences on State and Central Statistical issues. He is one of the pioneers in creating awareness and integrating Sustainable Development Goals among various state departments and has led many training programs in the state.



Ms. Nadia Rasheed

Deputy Resident Representative,

UNDP India

Ms. Nadia Rasheed is the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in India. She assumed her duties in November 2018. Prior to this she was Team Leader for the UNDP Regional Health and Development Team for Asia and the Pacific from 2014 to 2018, and was UNDP Deputy Country Director ad interim in Sri Lanka from June to August 2018. From 2009 to 2014 she was the global Practice Manager for the HIV, Health and Development Practice in UNDP Headquarters in New York. She has worked with UNDP on a range of health, gender and development issues, representing the organization in partnerships with UN organizations, managing UNDP and interagency programmes and providing advisory support to UNDP Country Offices and national partners. From 2005 to 2009 she was Policy Specialist on HIV in the Bureau for Policy development, and the UNDP focal point for the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). She also previously worked with the UNDP Human Development Report Office, and with UNDP and other organizations on capacity development and gender equality. Ms. Rasheed received her undergraduate degree in Economics from the London School of Economics, and her master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University.



Mr. Kanchan Dyuti Maiti

Former Planning,

M&E specialist in UNICEF

Mr. Maiti, formerly with UNICEF India office as Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist. Provided strategic and technical support in monitoring and evaluation of programmes and schemes, setting SDG monitoring systems and the overall strengthening of data systems. Earlier, he served Govt. of India in various senior positions, in several Ministries at the national level including the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and in the Ministry of Statistics and programme Implementation. He has been a student of Statistics and Demography from the University of Delhi

SESSION-3



Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan

*Chief Secretary (Retd.),
Govt of Tamil Nadu*

Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan is a civil servant who joined the Indian Administrative Services in 1981. She was the former Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu. She has wide experience in implementation and financing of schemes in the development sector, having spent nearly fifteen years in the Health, Nutrition and Environment sector in various leadership positions. She continues to work with the initiatives of the state toward provision of universal health care, which includes the strengthening of diagnostic services and setting up of Health and Wellness Centres at the Health Sub Centre and Primary Health Centre level. She holds a B.Sc. degree in Physics from University of Madras; M.Sc. in Physics from Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai; and Ph.D. in Health Economics from Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai. She is also a Chartered Financial Analyst.



Mr. Rahul Kapoor

*Director,
SMART Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India*

Sh. Rahul Kapoor, is the Director, Smart Cities Mission in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. He is managing the Mission that aims to setup 100 Smart Cities in the country by providing core infrastructure and improving the quality of life of citizens by using 'smart' solutions. He is also the Mission Data Officer, driving the data initiatives of the Smart Cities Mission. During his career, Sh. Kapoor has had varied experience in the field of government infrastructure and finance, having worked as Director Finance- PPP in the Ministry of Railways. He has also worked as Director Banking in the Ministry of Finance, that has given him a good insight into the working of the banking industry. Sh. Kapoor is a part of the IRAS service, and is also a recipient of the National Award for outstanding performance while working in the Government. He has a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Master's in Business Economics from University of Delhi.



Mr. Rama Kamaraju

*Sr. Consultant
(Aspirational Districts Programme), NITI Aayog*

Sh. Rama Kamaraju is Head of the Voluntary Action Cell and of Data & Strategy at the Aspirational Districts Programme at NITI Aayog. He has been with the Government for the last 17 years implementing Mission Mode eGovernance Projects for the Government of India since 2005. At NITI, he is in charge of a number of projects at the intersection of technology and social policy. Before working in the Government of India, he has held various roles at the Institute for Chartered Accountants of India and the Andhra Pradesh State Public Services. He has a background in Applied Statistics & Management.



Mr. Viraj Tyagi

CEO,
eGov Foundation

Sh. Viraj Tyagi is the CEO of eGov Foundation. He is passionate about the impact of a 'jugalbandi' of public digital platforms, policies and ecosystem in solving societal problems at scale and speed. Viraj believes that digital transformation is not as much about digitising and automation as it is about humans, improving quality of life, and creating trust between various actors. Prior to joining the impact sector, he was an entrepreneur and corporate leader with experience in building large businesses in Europe and India. A serial entrepreneur, mentor, and active investor, he was the CEO and co-founder of NettPositive, one of the first big data and analytics companies in India. He is also a co-founder of the fintech start-up, Finnacle. He serves on the board of several start-ups and companies. He is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT - BHU).



Dr. Poornima Dore

Director - Analytics, Insights & Impact,
TATA Trusts

Dr. Poornima Dore is an Economist and TAS leader with deep experience in digital transformation, corporate and development finance. She has worked across several group companies and is currently Director - Analytics, Insights and Impact at the Tata Trusts. She has been recognised as one of the top 100 Analytics Leaders in South Asia. She has served on a number of Government Committees and Ministerial Working Groups, the most recent being on the National Consumption Expenditure Survey, Aspirational Districts of India and Datasmart Cities. She has a PhD. in Economics from IIT Bombay She an MBA from XLRI Jamshedpur, and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Lady Shri Ram College.

SESSION-4



Dr. Rudra Sensarma

Professor of Economics,
IIM Kozhikode

Prof. Rudra Sensarma is a Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kozhikode where he has held positions like Dean, head of research office, and head of economics area. He has 20 years of experience in research and teaching. Before joining IIM Kozhikode, he worked for the Reserve Bank of India, IIM Lucknow, University of Birmingham, Brunel University and University of Hertfordshire.

Prof. Sensarma's teaching and research interests are in macroeconomics, applied econometrics and economic development. He has published more than 40 papers in international peer reviewed journals. He has also completed research projects for NABARD, NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. He regularly writes opinion pieces for various newspapers and contributes to training programmes for government and corporate bodies.



Ms. Linda Raftree

*Independent Consultant,
Linda Raftree LLC, MERL Tech, Technology Salon*

Linda Raftree is an independent consultant focused on the ethical uses of technology and digital data in international development, human rights, and humanitarian contexts. She is currently working with the Mastercard Foundation on a scan of technology-enabled monitoring, evaluation, research and learning (MERL) in African contexts; supporting Amnesty International with research on children and youth digital rights and wellbeing; advising The Asia Foundation on responsible data policies and practices; and writing a report for the UNHCR on digital approaches for adolescent mental health programming. Linda recently concluded research on the ethics of remote monitoring and evaluation for ALNAP and co-authored UNICEF's manifesto on good global governance of children's data. She has produced a report for Save the Children on safe digital programming for migrating and displaced children and a guidebook on data responsibility for cash and voucher assistance for the Cash Learning Partnership. In 2020, Linda worked on a team that advised the WHO on data sharing practices in non-emergency contexts. Linda organizes the annual MERL Tech conference, which explores how new technologies and digital data are changing MERL.

Prior to becoming an independent consultant, she worked for 16 years in various programmatic and strategy roles at Plan International in Central America, East and West Africa, and the United States. Linda is a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP) and Certified Information Privacy Manager (CIPM).



Mr. Santosh Misra

*Former Commissioner e-Governance and Commissioner Transport & State Transport Authority,
Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency*

Santosh K Misra is an Adjunct Professor in the in the area of Decision Science & Information systems at IIM Nagpur. He is an expert on public policy and governance. He has a deep technological background and over 25 years of work experience. He is recognised as a global innovation and technology thought leader. He has an impressive track record of conceiving, architecting and delivering e-Governance solutions at scale using Data analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Blockchain. He has authored India's first Safe and Ethical AI policy and co-authored India's first Blockchain Policy for Tamil Nadu. Prof Misra has served as a member of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in key assignments in the government and has made significant contributions to public policy and governance. In the IAS he has served in various capacities, such as District collector, HoD and Secretary to the Government. He has worked in the sectors of digital governance, transport, information, skill development, vocational education, health, agriculture, urban development, education, infrastructure and tourism. He has successfully lead several PSUs as the Managing Director and has been on the Board of Directors of many PSUs. Before joining the IAS he has worked with the AT&T Bell labs in USA in Wireless and Mobile Communication division.



Mr. Prashant Kumar Mittal

*Deputy Director General,
NIC and Managing Director, NICS*

Prashant Kumar Mittal is a Deputy Director General at National Informatics Centre and is currently working as the Managing Director of National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated since February 2020.

He sees technology as a utility and is a firm believer of the fact that technology has an enormous potential for improved quality of life. Having spent more than 32 years in delivering ICT solutions consistently, he has to his credit numerous products and solutions that resulted in improved efficiencies and delivery qualities in e-Governance and has also garnered many accolades during his stint at Ministry of Rural Development.

In his current role as the Managing Director of NICS, he is working towards building a strong ecosystem that facilitates the growth of start-ups and at the same time enabling the government entities leverage the most innovative and emerging technology solutions for better and informed governance.

Academically Shri. Prashant Kumar Mittal has done is M.Sc. in Physics with a specialization in Electronics, Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA), M.S. in Software Systems and is also an MBA in Project Management.



Mr. Ashish Desai

*Director,
DMEQ, NITI Aayog*

Ashish has over 2 decades of cross-sectoral experience in financial services, digital technologies and data analytics. His leadership experience spans product engineering and development, evidence-based policy advisory, regulatory advisory and building greenfield technology-driven business in the areas of digital analytics and financial inclusion institutions across South Asia, Middle East and Africa. He has expertise in neural network computing, mobile financial services and program implementation of a large-scale randomized contrail trial (RCT) research study. Ashish has 20 + new paper articles, conference papers and publications to his credit and has been on committees and advisories boards of various industry bodies and associations. He was also the convener of, BRICS Woman Business Alliance - Working Group on Inclusive Economy, India Chapter. His research and areas of interest include MSME, Financial services, ICT4D, Gender and Empowerment.

SESSION-5



Dr. Yogesh Kumar

*Executive Director,
Samarthan*

Dr Yogesh Kumar is a Doctor of Philosophy in Development Economics and founder Executive Director of a Civil Society Organisation 'Samarthan - Centre for Development Support' based in India. Dr Kumar is a member of several committees of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to provide strategic guidance on governance issues. He has experience of more than 30 years in local governance and participatory development, with several publications on the issues of people-centred planning, accountability and transparency. Dr Kumar has designed and conducted several tools of community-led monitoring of programs which include social audits, citizens report cards, community score cards, etc. A training manual on Social Audits, jointly prepared by Samarthan and UNDP, was published by NITI Aayog in the year 2015.



Ms. Shilpa Nag C T

*IAS, Commissioner,
Rural Development (MGNREGS), Govt. of Karnataka*

Ms Shilpa Nag is an Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer of the Karnataka state cadre, of 2014 batch. She is presently the Commissioner of Rural Development and Director of the E-Governance, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Departments. She has previously served as Commissioner Panchayati Raj, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department; State Surveillance Officer Karnataka-Omicron; Commissioner, Mysuru City Corporation (MCC); Director - Abdul Nazir Sab State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (ANSSIRD); Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat Haveri; and Assistant Commissioner, Kundapura Subdivision, Udupi District. Her educational qualifications include MBA, Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management.



Dr. Ananya Samajdar

*Head of Research,
GRAAM*

Dr. Ananya Samajdar is Head of Research, GRAAM (Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement), a public policy research and advocacy initiative in India. She has handled numerous research and evaluation studies for clients such as WHO, UNICEF, National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) and Karnataka Evaluation Authority, mainly in the areas of public health and skill development.

She holds a PhD in Political Science from the National University of Singapore, and worked on accountability and performance in Panchayati Raj in her doctoral thesis. Before her stint at GRAAM, she has worked on projects on CSR, higher education and academic leadership development in the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. She has also worked as a lecturer in Wilson College, Mumbai.

Dr Ananya has conducted numerous training sessions on diverse topics such as public policy, social stock exchange and social enterprises, CSR and project proposal writing. Her publications are on the topics of Panchayati Raj, CSR and higher education.

Keeping with her research interest in public health, Dr Ananya has recently served as a member of the Health, Nutrition and Food Security Working Group, Task Force on Tribal Development, Forest Management and MFP Management constituted by State Planning Commission, Government of Chhattisgarh.



Dr. (Flt Lt) MA Balasubramanya

*Advisor, Community Processes & Comprehensive Primary Health Care,
NHSRC, MoHFW, GoI*

Dr (Flt Lt) MA Balasubramanya is Advisor, Community Processes and Comprehensive Primary Health Care to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), MoHFW, Government of India. He graduated as an Anaesthesiologist from Mysore Medical College and Christian Medical College, Vellore. He has 38 years' experience of grassroots to policy-level action in the sectors of Health, Education, Socio-Economic Empowerment, Training and Research. Apart from being a clinician, he has lived amongst the indigenous tribal groups in Mysuru District of Karnataka, founded and led non-profit organisations and pioneered public-private partnership initiatives, some of which are national models in the health sector.



Dr. Basavaraju R

*Executive Director,
GRAAM*

Dr Basavaraju is a Public Policy and Development Professional, with diversified experience in Research and Evaluation, Teaching & Training, Strategic Consultation, Public Policy Development, Project Design & Implementation.

Dr Basavaraju played a key role in establishing GRAAM as a credible public policy research institute, and in its growth into a national-level organisation with footprint in over 14 States. In the last 10 years, GRAAM handled over 70 research / consulting projects, developed partnerships with 10 international universities and institutions, and over 60 Indian Governments, NGOs, Academic and Corporate organisations.

Dr Basavaraju has authored Vision Documents, Strategy Papers and Policies on Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood. He has also authored Evaluation Manual and Output Grading Manual for Karnataka Evaluation Authority. He is a member of South India Region Education, Skill and Employment Committee constituted by CII for four terms, Advisor for Emerging Technologies Centre (ISB and Intel Initiative), Member of Karnataka Vision 2025 Sector Specialist Group and over 14 other policy advisory committees in Government and Corporate sector.

Dr Basavaraju has done his Ph.D. in Development Studies, Institute of Development Studies, University of Mysore on Rural Livelihood Policies and Programs. He is a post graduate in Business Administration and did a PG Diploma in Human Resource Management. His undergraduate degree was in Economics, Mathematics and Computer Science.

SESSION-6



Dr. Vasantha Kumar

*Executive Director,
Uttar Pradesh Technical Support Unit, University of Manitoba*

Dr. Vasanth is a medico turned IAS officer who is currently serving as the Executive Director of Uttar Pradesh Technical Support Unit, University of Manitoba, which provides techno-managerial support to the Government of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP), pursuant to the Memorandum of Cooperation between the GoUP and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in order to enhance maternal and child health outcomes in the state through better implementation of the RMNCH+A program. Dr. Vasanth is a physician by training, having pursued his MBBS from Madras Medical College and MD(General Medicine) from Coimbatore Medical College. Later on in his career as an IAS officer, he went on to pursue his Masters in Public Health (MPH) from the Johns Hopkins University and Masters in Public Policy (MPP) from Princeton University. He brings in a combination of research and program delivery experience and he focusses on improving evidence-based decision making, front line workers' capacity, human resources for health, public health drug supply chain etc. He has served at several key positions such as Mission Director, NHM, Delhi, Additional Secretary to Chief minister of Delhi and Director of Centralized Accident and Trauma Service (CATS) ambulance services.



Dr. Chaya Degaonkar

*Additional Chief Evaluation Officer,
Karnataka Evaluation Authority, Planning Dept., Govt. of Karnataka*

Dr. Chaya Degaonkar served as Professor and, Head, Dept of Economics and Women's Studies and Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, Occupied various prestigious positions in academics and University administration. Visiting Professor- Osmania University, Hyderabad, SV University Tirupathi and Institute of Human Development New Delhi. Guided 16 Ph.Ds. and 30 M.Phil students. Completed 17 International, National and State funded projects, published 5 books and 72 articles Served as a member of many National and State level Committees including member of the State Task Force on Gender Budgeting and Member advisory Committee for Gender Auditing Govt. of Karnataka and Member Hyderabad Karnataka Region Development Board, Preparation of State Human Development Reports and District Human Development Reports. Recipient of 4 prestigious awards. Active and regular participation in international and national seminars, conferences and capacity building programmes as keynote speaker, resource person and Discussant. Prepared a base report for Article 371J for Hyderabad Karnataka Region in Karnataka State along with Dr. Shalini Rajneesh. Brought in many quality enhancement reforms in Karnataka Evaluation Authority. Currently involved in evaluation of govt. programmes in outcome-based planning monitoring and evaluation framework, evidence-based State budgeting and preparation of Karnataka Human Development Report 2022.



Dr. Sanjeev Sridharan

*Country Lead,
BMGF India*

Prior to this position, Sanjeev was Director of the Evaluation Centre for Complex Health Interventions at Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute at St. Michaels Hospital and Associate Professor at the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto. Prior to his position at Toronto, he was the Head of the Evaluation Program and Senior Research Fellow at the Research Unit in Health, Behaviour and Change at the University of Edinburgh. He is a former associate editor of the American Journal of Evaluation and is on the boards of the Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation, New Directions for Evaluation and the Journal of Evaluation and Program Planning.



Mr. Antony Cyriac

*Deputy Director General,
DMEQ, NITI Aayog*

Antony joined the Government of India in 1996 as a member of the Indian Economic Service.

As part of the Programme Evaluation Organization of the erstwhile Planning Commission, Antony was involved in the evaluation of many government schemes (1997 to 2007). He worked on areas such as industry, infrastructure, public finance, and macroeconomics during his two stints in the Ministry of Finance (2007 to 2010 and 2013-2018). He was involved in managing India's development partnership with Africa when he was in the Ministry of External Affairs (2010 to 2013). Before joining the DMEQ in December 2020, Antony was an Economic Adviser to the Fifteenth Finance Commission of the Government of India (2018-2020).



Mr. Paramjyoti Chattopadhyay

*M&E Specialist,
DMEQ, NITI Aayog*

Paramjyoti is a development practitioner with more than 15 years of experience in policy advisory, programme implementation and monitoring & evaluation of development and allied sectors programmes/schemes. He has worked extensively in government and donor agency programme design, management and monitoring & evaluation with focus on economic development, agribusiness, rural development, poverty alleviation, food processing, etc. in India and several African countries. Earlier, he has worked with reputed organizations such as Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, Villgro Innovations Foundation, IL&FS Cluster Development Initiative Ltd, Centre for Development Finance (IFMR), etc. Over the years, he has developed a deep understanding of development and allied sector issues through a balance of in-depth sectoral research and hands-on application of such research at field level. He has worked closely with a wide-ranging clientele/ partners such as Central Ministries, State Governments, Donor Agencies such as Asian Development Bank, DFID, USAID and GIZ, World Bank, etc. He led the evaluation of more than 30 Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Sectors for NITI Aayog. His areas of interest are evidence-based policy making, promoting domain specific innovations and strategy development for government and donor agencies.

SESSION-7



Mr. Yasumasa Kimura

*Deputy Representative,
UNICEF India*

He brings with him a diverse and well-established career in UNICEF. Most recently he served as the UNICEF Regional Chief of Private Fundraising and Partnerships (2012-2015) in the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, where he oversaw an expanding team of professionals. He has also led the promotion of Child Rights and Business Principles with the private sector in the region. Prior to this, he was the Regional Fundraising Specialist of the Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division (2006-2012) also in the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office. Prior to his posts in Bangkok, Yasumasa was with UNICEF HQ in New York working as Brand Development Officer for the Private Sector Division (2001-2005) where he supported National Committees in Asia in developing programmes, strategies and partnerships, such as leading the establishment of the pledge programme in Japan since 1996 and contributing to its substantial growth. He started his career in UNICEF in 1997, holding several posts related to private sector engagement in New York. Yasumasa holds a Master of Arts in International Development and Social Change from Clark University (U.S.A).



Ms. Rituu B Nanda

*MEL & Community Processes Consultant,
Global Fund for Children*

MEL & Community Processes Consultant India, Global Fund for Children, Washington and Evaluation Facilitator, Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST)

Rituu B Nanda uses a gender and equity lens in her work around MEL, participatory action research, facilitation, knowledge management, community engagement, and behaviour change. She provides support to Global Fund for children's India-based partners, helping them to strengthen their MEL systems. At the Institute of Social Studies Trust, Rituu moderates gender and evaluation online community of practice. Rituu is pursuing her second master's degree in Evaluation and holds a certification in Public Health. Appreciation and deep listening are key principles in Rituu's life and work.



Dr. Renu Singh

*Executive Director,
Young Lives India*

Over twenty-seven years of experience in policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation and research both in India and abroad. She is the founder of Young Lives India, Research to Policy Centre and is also the Country Director for Young Lives India, a longitudinal study on childhood poverty, University of Oxford. A trained educational psychologist, Montessorian and special educator, she conceptualized and set up the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Research, Jamia Millia Islamia University as well as School of Rehabilitation Sciences in University of Delhi. She held the position of Director, School of Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Delhi, and has been a member of the Senior Management Team of Save the Children. She has participated on various Joint Review Missions of Ministry of Education, has been Member of the Working Group responsible for drafting the National Policy for Early Childhood Care and Education, 2013 and has been Governing Body Member of Central Board of Secondary Education, CBSE for two terms. Her main research interests remain early childhood development, gender and inclusion. She is a prolific writer and has over 100 publications to her credit.



Mr. Khalil Bitar

*Evaluator and M&E Specialist (Germany) Chair,
EvalYouth Global Network*

Khalil Bitar is an independent evaluator from Palestine. He has 13 years of experience as an internal and external evaluator and researcher with multiple governmental institutions and national and international NGOs in several countries and regions. Khalil's doctoral research focuses on equity and social justice assessment and evaluation. His other research and writings are on evaluation capacity development, national evaluation systems (incl. in FCV contexts), youth participatory evaluation, global evaluation structures, decolonizing evaluation, and transformative evaluation practices. Khalil is a Senior Evaluation Advisor with the World Food Programme's Evaluation Methods Advisory Panel and Mentor/Facilitator with the Designing Evaluation and Communication for Impact. Khalil founded the Palestinian Evaluation Association in 2013, and he is a board member of the MENA Evaluation Network; co-founder and former chair of the EvalYouth Global Network; co-founder and former co-leader of the Eval4Action global campaign; chair of the Fellowship Committee and trustee/board member of the International Evaluation Academy.



Ms. Maaïke Bijker

*Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist (Research),
UNICEF India*

Maaïke has 10+ years of experience in research and evaluation internationally. She leads the evidence team at UNICEF India, which is responsible for the design and management of UNICEF-supported evaluations, and also provides specialized technical support to research, studies and monitoring activities commissioned by UNICEF. In addition, Maaïke leads UNICEF's external capacity building efforts in M&E, supporting partnerships for evidence across all UNICEF programmatic domains. Before joining UNICEF 3 years ago, Maaïke worked as a Senior Research Manager at J-PAL South Asia in Delhi, leading a number of randomized-controlled trials in the areas of immunization, adolescent empowerment, education and environmental sustainability. She previously worked with Dalberg in London, SNEHA in Mumbai and the University of Cambridge, UK on research and evaluations. Maaïke holds a Masters from LSE, UK, and a Masters from the University of Cambridge, UK.

SESSION-8



Ms. Marie-Aude Even

*Senior Technical Specialist,
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) India*

Marie-Aude Even is a Senior Technical Specialist in Agronomy. Based in New Delhi, she contributes her expertise to the design and supervision of IFAD projects throughout the Asia-Pacific region. She also supports policy engagement, partnership efforts and knowledge management in the areas of agronomy, agricultural extension and innovation systems. Prior to joining IFAD, she worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. There, she supported the development of outlook reports and action plans for gender equality in agriculture for the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, and the Economic Community of Central African States. She coordinated an international initiative supporting 10 countries to document and monitor farming systems to inform better-targeted policy and extension. Earlier, Marie-Aude worked as a policy analyst for the Centre for Studies and Strategic Foresight, an initiative of the French Ministry of Agriculture, on food security issues. She also managed a project in Ghana on lowland rice development for the Agence Française de Développement, strengthening institutions, innovations and value chains. Marie-Aude holds a bachelor's degree in agronomy and a master's degree in international agricultural development economics from the grande école AgroParisTech, as well as an executive master's degree in agricultural public policy from the institute that trains high-level civil servants for the French Ministry of Agriculture and Environment.



Dr. Shivendra Srivastava

*Senior Scientist,
National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NIAP)-ICAR*

Dr. Shivendra Kumar Srivastava is presently working as a scientist (Agricultural Economics) at the National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NIAP), New Delhi. He holds a graduate degree from G.B Pant University of Agriculture & Technology and is a post-graduate from Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Delhi. He belongs to the 2007 batch of Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and joined the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 2010. He also holds faculty membership in PG faculty in the Discipline of Agricultural Economics, Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi. Dr. Shivendra has recently completed a two-year deputation in NITI Aayog with Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog. His research interests include sustainable agricultural production and food demand analysis. He has authored/ co-authored research papers on sustainable agriculture, groundwater use, irrigation, livelihoods, labour markets, household food demand, consumption, and food baskets, etc.



Prof. Srijit Mishra

*Professor of Applied Development Economics and Public Policy,
Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR)*

Srijit Mishra, PhD, is Professor at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, Deemed to be University, and was formerly the Director at the Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies (NCDS), an Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) institute set-up in collaboration with the Government of Odisha. He researches and teaches on development-related issues that intertwine between social philosophy, analytical measurement and applied development. During his secondment to NCDS, he was instrumental in spearheading the Odisha Millets Mission that brought together the Government, civil society and the Academia for a pro-people action research initiative that works in four verticals - production, processing, marketing and consumption. His work on cyclone Fani, as part of a multi-disciplinary team involving the Government of Odisha and many multilateral agencies, dealt with macroeconomic and human impact that has important methodological and policy implications. His work on farmers' suicides in Maharashtra led to the setting-up of Vasant Rao Naik Kshetkari Swabhilambhan Mission and other policy outcomes, including the deliberations leading to debt waiver. Some of his publications are on agrarian issues, measurement of development indicators, and poverty among others. He has been a Guest Scholar at Meiji University, Japan during June 2016, ICCR Chair Professor of Indian Studies at the National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan, spring semester, 2015, and Subir Chowdhury Fellow on Quality and Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science, spring 2014. His M.Phil./Ph.D. on tribal agrarian economies were carried out at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram and awarded by the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. He is married to Nandini and they both have been blessed with a daughter, Nerika.



Mr. Mihir Bhatt

*Director,
All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)*

Mihir R. Bhatt is director of the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI). He works on reducing risk-related action and learning: Experience Learning Series on Learning and Risk Mitigation; Southasiadisasters.net; Afat Nivaran (Gujarati Newsletter) and Vipada Nivaran (Hindi Newsletter). He has published widely on issues of vulnerability and disasters, and has been part of key evaluations of disaster response in Asia. He is a Senior Fellow of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative since 2007 and was a member of the panel that selects the Humanitarian Coordinators for the United Nations. He advises Climate Development Knowledge Network's work on climate compatible development in nine states of India with focus on urban resilience, green finance, and renewable energy at subnational level. He was recently invited to join an independent panel of INGO Accountability Charter to review accountability of international civil society. He chairs Duryog Nivaran, a South Asian network on alternative thinking on disaster risk reduction. He has recently published *"The Interplay of Women, Work and Disasters: Missing Women's View"* and *"Gender, disasters and development: opportunities for South-South cooperation"* in a book titled *Women and Disasters in South Asia: Survival, Security and Development*; and *"Using Disaster Insurance to Build Urban Resilience: Lessons from Micro-enterprise"* in a book titled *Urban Disaster Resilience: New Dimensions from International Practice in the Built Environment*.



Ms. Pradnya Paithankar

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and South-South Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Manager, World Food Programme (WFP), India

Working in one of the world's largest humanitarian organisations in the world, WFP, Pradnya is currently providing leadership to of WFP India's efforts to bring the sustainable food and nutrition security to the forefront of development agenda by expanding the scope of work to enhance resilience building and adaptive capacity among vulnerable population in changing climate. As Head of Policy Design, South-south Collaboration, she is contributing to leverage WFP's expertise globally in the field of Climate Change, DRR/DRM to strategically support government systems to design, monitor and implement approaches towards achievement of the 2030 agenda. Her work involves support to transforming food systems to make them climate resilient and encourage local action through empowered communities.

SESSION-9



Professor Ian Goldman

*Advisor on Evaluation and Evidence Systems,
Global Evaluation Initiative/CLEAR Anglophone Africa*

*Former Deputy Director General in the Department of Planning,
Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa*

Ian is an International Advisor on Evaluation and Evidence Systems and an Adjunct Professor at the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town. He worked in the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa, where he established and ran the National Evaluation System. He works with the Global Evaluation Initiative, CLEAR Anglophone Africa, is on the 3ie and South African M&E Association Boards, was a founder of the Twende Mbele African M&E Partnership, and is on the International Evaluation Academy Council. Recently Ian has been researching, training and consulting internationally in evidence use and evaluation systems.



Mr. Asela Kalugampitiya

President of the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA)

Asela Kalugampitiya is a Sri Lankan lawyer, currently the President of both Sri Lanka Evaluation Association and the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association. He holds a Master of Evaluation from Germany. Asela has been working in the Monitoring & Evaluation field over two decades including for international organizations such as International Development Law Organization, UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO and CARE International as Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist. Asela was instrumental in launching the Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation. He is an Advisory Committee member of the IPDET programme and is the Director- Center for Evaluation, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.



Mr. Alok Mishra

*Additional Director General (Media & Communication)
Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India*

Former Deputy Director General in the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog

Mr. Alok Mishra is a Civil Servant with over 23 years of experience. He has recently joined as Additional Director General (Media & Communication) Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Food & Public Distribution, Consumer Affairs, Heavy Industries and Textiles, Government of India. Until recently, Alok was posted as Deputy Director General in the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office in NITI Aayog, where he oversaw evaluation studies of government schemes, external engagement with International Organizations and Academic Institutions besides capacity building, competency framework development and national evaluation policy. Earlier, he worked as Senior Deputy Director at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, where he taught Economics, Management, Evidence-based policy and media communication.



Dr. Sanjay Kumar

*Core group Member,
Evaluation Community of India (ECOI)*

Dr. Sanjay is a Population Dynamics and Research Specialist in United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) India and is a core group member of the Evaluation Community of India (ECOI).



Ms. Urvashi Prasad

*Director,
Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog*

Urvashi has extensive experience in health, nutrition, sanitation, gender and public policy. For five years, Urvashi worked as a Public Policy Specialist in the Office of the Vice Chairman at NITI Aayog. She has been a part of the core team supporting the work of Government of India's Empowered Group 1 for managing the Covid-19 pandemic in India. Urvashi co-authored India's first Voluntary National Review presented at the United Nation's High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017. She has over 100 publications to her credit. Urvashi is a member of the World Economic Forum's Expert Network and an alumna of the WEF Global Shapers Community. She completed a BSc in Life Sciences (Genetics) from University of Birmingham, UK, followed by an MPhil in Bioscience Enterprise from University of Cambridge and an MSc in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

SESSION-10



Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey

Secretary,

Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India

Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey joined Indian Administrative Service of Government of India in the year 1987. Has experience of over 33 years in different senior policy positions in State Government, Government of India and in Indian Embassy Germany. Currently serving as Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution since April 2020. As Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, he was responsible for India's trade policy, India's negotiations in WTO, G-20, BRICS, UNCTAD and SCO. In WTO, he was responsible for GATT, GATS, SPS, TBT, TRIPS, ASCM and other multilateral agreements. As Chief Negotiator for India, he was responsible for various multilateral, unilateral and bilateral trade negotiations at the highest level globally. In earlier assignments in the State Government, he served as Principal Secretary Finance, Principal Secretary Energy and Secretary, Industry & Commerce/Managing Director, SIDCO.

In his present capacity, he deals with matters relating to food grain management in the country for the central pool stocks including procurement, storage and movement of wheat, rice & coarse grain for its distribution through a network of Public Distribution System Outlets. He also deals with policy intervention for the sugar and edible oil industry in the country. Administration of National Food Security Act, 2013 is one of his major responsibilities.



Dr. Sekhar Bonu

Director General,

Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog

Dr. Sekhar Bonu joined as the Director General of Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) in April, 2019. Before joining NITI Aayog, Dr. Bonu worked with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila for 15 years. At ADB, he worked in health, urban infrastructure development and regional cooperation, mainly in South Asia.

Dr. Bonu worked in the Indian Administrative Services and served as a civil servant in Rajasthan between 1987-2003, among others, as district magistrate, director of primary and secondary education, chief executive officer of state-owned enterprises.

Dr. Sekhar Bonu has a PhD from Johns Hopkins University and is a Chartered Financial Analyst charter holder. He has a wide range of research and operational interests and has published in peer-review journals.



Mr. Shailendra Dwivedi

*Joint Secretary,
DMEO, NITI Aayog*

Mr. Shailendra has a rich experience as a policy maker as well as working with large teams in the implementation of change during his career as a Civil Servant. Financial and social inclusion, quality assurance and transparency in governance, global logistics and supply chain management, sustainable development have been at the core of his work experience. He has a rich human resource development and capacity building experience both in India and abroad having worked at the National Postal Academy, Ghaziabad and the Asian-Pacific Postal Union, Bangkok for seven years. He was involved in the design of the India Post Payments Bank and the framework for development of exports from India through the Postal Channel in coordination with other Ministries and stakeholders. He has represented India at the Universal Postal Union, a specialised UN agency, and other global bodies and has an invaluable experience in international relations and negotiations. He practices holistic approaches to solving wicked problems with interdisciplinary and design thinking. He has a deep interest in organisational systems and behaviour, human resource management, capacity building, innovation management, sustainable business models and has written several papers and led training programmes on these themes. He belongs to the 1997 Batch of the Indian Postal Service.



Mr. Antony Cyriac

*Deputy Director General,
DMEO, NITI Aayog*

Mr. Antony joined the Government of India in 1996 as a member of the Indian Economic Service. As part of the Programme Evaluation Organization of the erstwhile Planning Commission, he was involved in the evaluation of many government schemes (1997 to 2007). He worked on areas such as industry, infrastructure, public finance, and macroeconomics during his two stints in the Ministry of Finance (2007 to 2010 and 2013-2018). He was involved in managing India's development partnership with Africa when he was in the Ministry of External Affairs (2010 to 2013). Before joining the DMEO in December 2020, Shri Antony was an Economic Adviser to the Fifteenth Finance Commission of the Government of India (2018-2020).



Dr. Abinash Dash

*Joint Director,
DMEO*

Abinash Dash is Joint Director (Evaluation) at the DMEO, NITI Aayog. He specializes in development economics, health economics, impact and program evaluation, and micro-econometrics. He has completed his PhD in Development Economics from National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo, Japan. In his present assignment he is involved in several ongoing evaluation projects evaluating government schemes – Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored – in various sector such as MSME, North-Eastern regional development, health, infrastructure financing and agriculture. He is an active speaker on various issues pertaining to the Monitoring & Evaluation systems in the country and has been involved in various capacity building efforts with a number of agencies in the M&E ecosystem. He has published extensively in journals, newspaper dailies and presented paper in academic conferences. His current areas of research pertain to program evaluation on food and nutritional security issue in the country under the auspices of National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.