

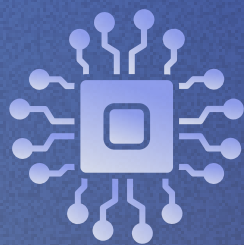
# 9<sup>th</sup> INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE 2026

COLLECTIVE STEWARDSHIP FOR INDIAN OCEAN GOVERNANCE

 April 10-12, 2026

 Mauritius

**Bio Book**







# SPEAKERS



# SPEAKERS



## H.E. Navinchandra Ramgoolam

Prime Minister  
Mauritius

H.E. Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam is the Prime Minister of Mauritius, currently serving his fourth term following a landslide victory in November 2024. The son of the nation's founding father, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, he has led the Mauritius Labour Party since 1991. A unique professional hybrid, Ramgoolam trained as a physician in Ireland before earning a law degree from the London School of Economics. His political career is defined by remarkable resilience, having served as Prime Minister from 1995–2000, 2005–2014, and returning to power in 2024. He remains a key figure in Indian Ocean diplomacy and economic reform.



## S Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister  
India

H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar is India's External Affairs Minister since May 30th, 2019. He is a Member of the Upper House (Rajya Sabha) of India's Parliament from the state of Gujarat. He was Foreign Secretary from 2015-18, Ambassador to United States (2013-15), China (2009-2013) and Czech Republic (2000-2004). He was High Commissioner to Singapore (2007-2009). He has also served in other diplomatic assignments in Embassies in Moscow, Colombo, Budapest and Tokyo, as well in the Ministry of External Affairs and the President's Secretariat. He was also President – Global Corporate Affairs at Tata Sons Private Limited. Dr S. Jaishankar is a graduate of St. Stephen's College at the University of Delhi. He has a Masters in Political Science and an M. Phil and Ph.D in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.



# SPEAKERS



## Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi

Foreign Minister  
Oman

H.E. Sayyid Badr Al Busaidi is a graduate of Oxford University in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics. He joined the Foreign Ministry in 1989. Since 1996, he has served as ambassador, then Undersecretary in 2000, and Secretary General with rank of Minister since 2007. He was appointed Minister in August 2020. He takes a keen personal interest in youth development, human rights and the advancement of women in public life, besides promoting cultural diplomacy, tolerance and mutual understanding.



## Ram Madhav

President, India Foundation  
India

Ram Madhav is an Indian politician and social leader. Dr Madhav is currently the President of India Foundation (IF), a New Delhi-based Think tank. Previously, he has served as the National General Secretary of the BJP from 2014 to 2020 and handles affairs of Jammu and Kashmir for the party. A renowned strategic thinker and author, Dr Madhav has to his credits a diverse set of publications spanning multiple domains and disciplines. Some of his most recent works include “The New World: 21st Century Global Order and India” ; “Our Constitution Our Pride” ; “The Indian Reality” ; “Partitioned Freedom” ; and “The Hindutva Paradigm” amongst others. As a political philosopher and geopolitical observer, Dr Madhav has been at the centre of curating many Track 1.5 and Track 2 initiatives placing the India story on global stage. As a prolific speaker, Dr Madhav has addressed various multi national forums across the world.



# SPEAKERS



## Dhananjay Ramful

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade  
Mauritius

H.E. Dhananjay Ramful is a prominent Mauritian politician and lawyer currently serving as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade. A member of the Labour Party (PTr), he assumed office in November 2024 following the electoral victory of the Alliance du Changement under Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam. Ramful has been a vocal advocate for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), focusing on climate finance, maritime security, and regional integration. He represents Mauritius in major multilateral forums, including the United Nations and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). He frequently emphasizes the importance of the "blue economy" and strengthening strategic partnerships with India and the African Union. Prior to his ministerial appointment, he served as a Member of Parliament and practiced as a barrister.



## Khalilur Rahman

Foreign Minister  
Bangladesh

H.E. Dr. Khalilur Rahman was sworn in as the Foreign Minister of Government of Bangladesh on 17 February 2026. He previously served as National Security Adviser and High Representative for the Rohingya Issue in the Interim Government of Bangladesh. Dr. Rahman joined diplomatic service of Bangladesh in 1979 upon securing the first position in the first regular Bangladesh Civil Service examination held in 1977. In the same year, he stood first class first in MA examinations in Economics at the Dhaka University. During 1980-83, he studied at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University and the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and earned the degrees of MA in Law and Diplomacy, and PhD in Economics. Dr. Rahman is a founder of the East West University in Dhaka and served as a member on its Board of Trustees until November 2024.



# SPEAKERS



## Barry Faure

Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Diaspora  
Seychelles

H.E. Barry Faure is a Seychellois diplomat and politician. Faure is serving as the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Diaspora since 2025. Prior to his appointment as Minister, Faure had served as ambassador to a multitude of countries. Faure was elected in 1993 to the National Assembly for Anse Royale. He currently runs his own consulting firm (BF Consultancy) in international trade, business and investments. Since October 2023 he is a member of the Central Committee of United Seychelles. He loves sports, including long distance running, cycling and deep-sea diving.



## D N Dhungyel

Foreign Minister  
Bhutan

H.E. Lyonpo D. N. Dhungyel currently serves as the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of the Royal Government of Bhutan. A distinguished member of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Lyonpo represents the Phuentshospelri-Samtse Constituency in the National Assembly of Bhutan. Previously, Lyonpo held the position of Minister for Information and Communications from 2013 to 2018. Lyonpo possesses an academic background that includes a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Sherubtse College, Bhutan, and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Institute of Management Studies & Research, India. Prior to his foray into electoral politics in 2008, Lyonpo garnered extensive experience in the private sector. His professional career includes notable managerial roles at Bhutan Ferro Alloys Ltd. in Bhutan and Natural Resources PTE Ltd. in Singapore.



# SPEAKERS



## Mahamoud Thabit Kombo

Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation  
Tanzania

Ambassador Mahmoud Thabit Kombo is a prominent Tanzanian politician and diplomat currently serving as the Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation. Appointed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in July 2024, he previously served as Tanzania's Ambassador to Italy. A seasoned leader from Zanzibar, Kombo held several key ministerial portfolios in the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, including Minister of Health and Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, and Sports. Educated in the UK and Switzerland, he holds an MSc in Applied ICT and AI and an MA in International Relations. He is recognized for advancing Tanzania's economic diplomacy and regional integration.



## Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs  
and Social and Family Development,  
Singapore

H.E. Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim is Minister of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social and Family Development, and a Member of Parliament for Chua Chu Kang GRC (Keat Hong). Before entering politics, he was a Senior Partner in the Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice at Dentons Rodyk & Davidson LLP, specialising in complex litigation and international commercial arbitration, while also undertaking pro bono legal work with the Legal Aid Bureau. He graduated from the National University of Singapore in 2005 and was admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor in 2006.



# SPEAKERS



## Un Kheang

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs  
Cambodia

H.E. Dr. Un Kheang is a distinguished scholar and diplomat currently serving as the Secretary of State for Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Born in Phnom Penh, he built a renowned academic career in the United States, earning his PhD in Political Science from Northern Illinois University. Over two decades, he rose from Assistant Professor to full Professor at the same institution, specializing in Southeast Asian studies. In addition to his academic roles at Xiamen and Guangxi Minzu Universities, Dr. Un has contributed extensively to Cambodian development as an advisor for the CDRI and a board member for the Cambodia Development Center.



## Mohamed Abu Bakr

Deputy Foreign Minister for African  
Affairs  
Egypt

H.E. Mohamed Abu Bakr is a veteran Egyptian diplomat currently serving as the Deputy Foreign Minister for African Affairs, appointed in February 2026. A specialist in regional stability and economic diplomacy, he previously served as Egypt's Ambassador to Japan, where he facilitated the historic "Samurai bonds" issuance and expanded the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership. Earlier, he managed the sensitive Libya portfolio as Assistant Foreign Minister (2017–2021) and served as Ambassador to Tripoli in 2013. His career includes postings in London, New Delhi, and the United Nations. He holds an LL.B. from Cairo University and a Master's from the University of Notre Dame.



# SPEAKERS



## Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu

Chairman, Governing Council, India  
Foundation  
India

Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu is a senior Indian statesman, global policy influencer, and respected reform architect with more than four decades of service in public life. He has played a key role in shaping India's economic transformation, environmental governance, cooperative sector reforms, aviation expansion, energy consolidation, and railway modernization. He has served as a Union Cabinet Minister in 10 major ministries, has been elected to Parliament six times, and represented India as the country's Sherpa to the G20 and later to the G7.



## M J Akbar

Former Minister of State for External  
Affairs  
India

M J Akbar is an Indian journalist, author, and politician who served as the Minister of State for External Affairs from 2016 to 2018. He was elected to Rajya Sabha from Jharkhand in July 2015. During his long and illustrious career in journalism, he launched, as editor, India's first weekly political news periodicals, including India Today, Headlines Today, The Telegraph, The Asian Age and Deccan Chronicle, among others. He is author of several books including India: The Siege Within: Challenges to a Nation's Unity, Tinderbox: The Past and Future of Pakistan, Doolally Sahib and the Black Zamindar: Racism and Revenge in the British Raj and The Shade of Swords.



# SPEAKERS



## P. Kumaran

Secretary (East)  
India

Shri P. Kumaran belongs to the 1992 batch of the Indian Foreign Service. His first assignment was as Third Secretary in the Embassy of India, Cairo (1994-1997), followed by his posting as Second Secretary in the Embassy of India, Tripoli (1997-2000) and then as First Secretary in the Embassy of India, Brussels (2000-2003). Following this, he returned to India and served as Deputy Secretary [Europe West] in the Ministry of External Affairs (2003-2005). His next assignment was at the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, as Joint Secretary (Consular, Passport & Visa Division) (2014-2016). He then moved to Qatar for his first Ambassadorial assignment, to serve as Ambassador of India, Doha (2016-2020). From Doha, he moved to Singapore as the High Commissioner of India to Singapore (2020-2023). In July 2023, he assumed charge as Additional Secretary (Economic Relations & Development Partnership Administration) and was later promoted to Special Secretary (ER & DPA) in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. He took over his current charge as Secretary (East) on 1st April 2025.



## Razanadrasoa Marie Leontine

Secretary General of the Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs  
Madagascar

Marie Léontine Razanadrasoa is a senior Malagasy diplomat currently serving as the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Madagascar. With a career spanning decades in the Malagasy diplomatic corps, she previously held the critical role of Director of Partnership for Development Promotion, where she spearheaded international cooperation and strategic aid initiatives. A former Ambassador to India, she has been instrumental in strengthening South-South cooperation, particularly in disaster management and resource diplomacy. Most recently, in March 2026, she played a lead role in coordinating bilateral humanitarian relief efforts, reinforcing Madagascar's strategic partnerships within the Indian Ocean Region.



# SPEAKERS



## Sanjiv Ranjan

Secretary General, Indian Ocean Rim Association  
India

H. E. Mr. Sanjiv Ranjan assumed the role of Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on January 1, 2025 for a tenure of 3 years. A distinguished diplomat with three decades of experience in international relations and cooperation, Mr. Ranjan is set to lead IORA's efforts in fostering regional collaboration among IORA Member States. Mr. Ranjan holds a B.A. (Honours) in Economics from Delhi University and an M.A. in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1993 and has since built a distinguished career in diplomacy in multilateral and bilateral cooperation. From 1995 to 2009, Mr. Ranjan held various diplomatic positions in Indian embassies in Madrid and Lima and at the Permanent Mission of India in New York. His tenure included significant roles in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in New Delhi.



## J. Bissoondoyal

Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade  
Mauritius

Ambassador J. Bissoondoyal is a career diplomat serving as the Secretary for Foreign Affairs (SFA) of Mauritius. As the administrative head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, he directs the nation's diplomatic service and policy execution. A graduate of the Sorbonne and the École Nationale d'Administration (ENA), Bissoondoyal has held senior roles including Minister Counselor and Deputy High Commissioner. His leadership focuses on regional integration within the SADC and African Union, maritime security in the Indian Ocean, and expanding economic partnerships with key global allies like India.



# SPEAKERS



## Indra Mani Pandey

Secretary General  
BIMSTEC

His Excellency Indra Mani Pandey, is a career diplomat of India. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1990. Before his current assignment, he served as Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and Other International organizations in Geneva. He had earlier served as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs in-charge of Disarmament & International Security Affairs Division. During his 33 years long career as an Indian diplomat, Ambassador Pandey has served as Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman. Before his Ambassadorial assignment in Muscat, he served as Deputy Ambassador of India to France and Consul General of India at Guangzhou, China. Ambassador Pandey had also served in various diplomatic capacities at Indian Missions in Cairo (Egypt), Damascus (Syria), Islamabad (Pakistan), Kabul (Afghanistan) and Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva (Switzerland).



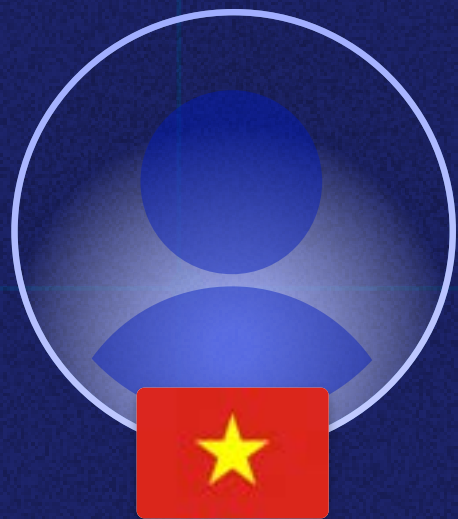
## Rogelio E. VILLANUEVA Jr

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Maritime  
and Ocean Affairs Office, Department  
of Foreign Affairs  
Philippines

Rogelio E. Villanueva Jr. is a distinguished career diplomat and former military officer currently serving as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office (MOAO) and the first-ever Spokesperson for Maritime Affairs for the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). Appointed to the spokesperson role in February 2026, he serves as the unified voice for the Philippine government on sensitive maritime issues, particularly regarding the West Philippine Sea and South China Sea.



# SPEAKERS



## Tran Van Thuy

Deputy Head, National Boundary Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Vietnam

Trần Văn Thùy is a senior diplomat currently serving as the Deputy Head of the National Boundary Commission within Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A specialist in territorial sovereignty and maritime law, he plays a pivotal role in negotiating Vietnam's land and sea borders. Thùy frequently represents Vietnam in high-level bilateral and multilateral dialogues, notably leading delegations in maritime security forums with partners like Japan. His work focuses on upholding the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and managing complex disputes in the South China Sea. He is central to Vietnam's strategic efforts in boundary delimitation and regional stability.



## Ekapol Poolpipat

Ambassador of Thailand to South Africa  
Thailand

Ekapol Poolpipat is a senior Thai diplomat currently serving as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to the Republic of South Africa. Stationed in Pretoria, he oversees Thailand's strategic interests across Southern Africa, focusing on enhancing bilateral trade, investment, and diplomatic cooperation. With a career spanning several key international posts, Poolpipat previously served as the Ambassador to Kuwait, where he chaired the ASEAN Committee, and as the Ambassador to Timor-Leste (2019–2023). His prior experience also includes serving as the Consul-General in Mumbai, India, and as the Deputy Director-General of European Affairs, solidifying his reputation as a versatile leader in Thai foreign policy.



# SPEAKERS



## Fatoumia Ali Bazi

Ambassador of Comoros to Mauritius  
Comors

Fatoumia Ali Bazi is a high-ranking Comorian diplomat currently serving as the Ambassador of the Union of the Comoros to the Republic of Mauritius. A specialist in international development and regional integration, she previously served as the Director General of the National Agency for International Cooperation (ACCI) in Comoros. In her prior roles, she led strategic partnerships with the African Union and Rwanda, focusing on e-government and youth empowerment. Her diplomatic mission in Mauritius centers on strengthening maritime security, trade, and South-South cooperation within the Indian Ocean Commission, advocating for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on the global stage.



## Ruchira Kamboj

Former Ambassador  
India

Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj is a distinguished former Indian diplomat with nearly four decades of experience across bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, global strategy and negotiation. Her career has spanned key assignments at the United Nations as well as in Africa, Europe, and the Indian Ocean region, combining regional expertise with a global outlook. Most recently, she served as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York from 2022 to 2024, where she led India's engagement during its Security Council term and presided over the Council in December 2022. As a public speaker and thought leader, she has addressed prestigious forums, including Harvard and Columbia Universities, and has contributed commentaries on global diplomacy, multilateralism, and India's foreign policy. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Delhi and a Bachelor's degree from Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow. She is fluent in Hindi, English, and French.



# SPEAKERS



## Shaurya Doval

Managing Director, Zeus Caps  
India

Shri Shaurya Doval is the Managing Director of Zeus Caps, where he leads the principal investment initiatives and deal originations in India. Mr. Doval is a qualified Chartered Accountant and holds a joint MBA Degree from London Business School and University of Chicago.



## Shahzad Athar

CEO, International Ports, Adani Ports  
& SEZ  
India

Shazad Athar is a senior executive driving the Adani Group's logistics and port expansion across Africa. With over a decade of industry experience, he specializes in strategic growth through public-private partnerships, brownfield acquisitions, and greenfield developments. As a Board Member and Director of Tanzania East Africa Gateway Terminal Ltd (TEAGTL), he spearheaded the transformation of Dar es Salaam Port, notably leading the successful negotiation of a 30-year container terminal concession. Previously, as Head of Commercial for Adani's Indian operations, he played a pivotal role in M&A and commercial strategy, establishing the robust foundation for his current international leadership in infrastructure investment.



# SPEAKERS



## John Michaël Tzoun Sao Yeung Sik Yuen

Minister of Commerce and Consumer  
Protection  
Mauritius

John Michaël Tzoun Sao Yeung Sik Yuen is a prominent Mauritian politician and businessman currently serving as the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection. A member of the Labour Party, he has held several key cabinet portfolios, including Minister of Tourism and Leisure and Minister of Business, Enterprise, and Cooperatives. Educated at Concordia University, Sik Yuen transitioned from local governance as the Mayor of Curepipe to national leadership. He is a significant figure within the Sino-Mauritian community, known for his work in international trade and luxury tourism. His career remains defined by his efforts to modernize the Mauritian economy and consumer rights framework.



## Jagjeet Sareen

Partner and India Head, Global  
Climate Practice, Dalberg Advisors  
India

Jagjeet Sareen is a Partner and India Head at Dalberg Advisors, based in Delhi, where he leads climate-related projects across Asia Pacific and globally. Prior to joining Dalberg, he served as Assistant Director-General at the International Solar Alliance and as a Senior Policy Officer in the Global Climate Practice at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. With over 20 years of experience, his work focuses on green infrastructure, investment, and climate finance. He has worked with leading global institutions including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Green Climate Fund, United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Ernst & Young, and TERI. He has facilitated international climate finance negotiations and supported the design of global climate funds at the UN and multilateral development banks. Jagjeet holds a master's degree in Sustainability Management from the Indian Institute of Forest Management and a BSc in Agricultural Economics from Punjab Agricultural University.



# SPEAKERS



## Saliem Fakir

Executive Director, African Climate Foundation  
South Africa

Saliem Fakir is the Executive Director of the African Climate Foundation. Prior to establishing the ACF, Saliem served as the Head of the Policy & Futures Unit of WWF South Africa for 11 years. Saliem has worked as a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Public Administration and Planning and an Associate Director for the Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy at Stellenbosch University. Prior to that he served as Director of the World Conservation Union, South Africa (IUCN-SA) for eight years. Saliem has served on a number of Boards and is a prolific writer who contributes regularly to leading South African publications like Engineering News, Business Day and the Daily Maverick.



## Amit Mallick

Director (International Cooperation),  
International Big Cat Alliance  
India

Dr. Amit Mallick is a distinguished conservationist and protection strategist with over 30 years of experience in wildlife policy, protected area management, and national-level conservation programmes. A 1992-batch officer of the Indian Forest Service (Kerala cadre), he most recently served as Inspector General of Forests at the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). In this role, he led the implementation of Project Tiger, steered the fourth and initiated the fifth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation, and played a key role in revising the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) guidelines. Dr. Mallick was instrumental in conceptualizing and operationalizing Project Cheetah and in the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA). He coordinated bilateral cooperation with tiger range countries and represented India in collaboration with key institutions including CITES, SAWEN, UNEP-CMS, and the Global Tiger Forum (GTF).



# SPEAKERS



## Rajesh Bahadur Thapa

Senior Project Coordinator (Glaciers-to-Ocean), ICIMOD  
Nepal

Rajesh is a Senior Remote Sensing and Geoinformation Specialist and provides scientific leadership to the geospatial theme at ICIMOD. He is the Science and Data Lead for SERVIR-HKH (a joint NASA and USAID partnership) Initiative at ICIMOD, and previously worked as Theme Leader for Geospatial Theme, Group Lead for Land Use Land Cover Group, and Capacity Building Lead for SERVIR-HKH. Rajesh has over 25 years of experience working in Asia, including in Nepal, Thailand, and Japan. Prior to joining ICIMOD in 2016, he has served at Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) working for the Japanese Earth observing missions ALOS, ALOS-2, and PiSAR-L2. He was a visiting professor at the University of Tsukuba, Japan. He is a geographer, geospatial science practitioner, writer, and seeker.



## M S Koonjul

Director, of Fisheries, Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries  
Mauritius

M S Koonjul is the Director of Fisheries at the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping in Mauritius. A seasoned expert in marine science with an MSc in Zoology, he leads the nation's strategic efforts to develop a sustainable Blue Economy. Koonjul is instrumental in enforcing the Fisheries Act 2023, managing the Exclusive Economic Zone, and combating illegal fishing. He frequently represents Mauritius at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), advocating for regional resource diplomacy and sustainable catch limits. His work focuses on modernizing aquaculture, protecting marine biodiversity, and ensuring national food security through innovative aquatic resource management.



# SPEAKERS



## S. Meeheelaul

Director of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change Mauritius

S. Meeheelaul is the Director of Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change in Mauritius. She plays a pivotal role in shaping the nation's climate resilience strategies, particularly focusing on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. An expert in environmental policy, Meeheelaul oversees initiatives regarding Blue Carbon sequestration, coastal protection, and the development of national carbon market frameworks. She frequently represents Mauritius at international forums like COP, advocating for the unique needs of Small Island Developing States. Her leadership is central to integrating climate adaptation with the sustainable management of marine and terrestrial ecosystems.



## Arvin Boolell

Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries Mauritius

Dr. Arvin Boolell, GOSK, is a veteran Mauritian statesman and physician currently serving as the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries. A senior figure in the Mauritian Labour Party, his political career spans nearly four decades, including two tenures as Leader of the Opposition and a significant term as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Educated in the UK and Ireland, Boolell blends medical and legal expertise to champion food sovereignty and maritime security. He is a prominent advocate for Small Island Developing States, focusing on sustainable resource management, climate resilience, and strengthening strategic regional partnerships across the Indian Ocean.



# SPEAKERS



## RA Bhagwan, GCSK

Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change  
Mauritius

Rajesh Anand Bhagwan is a Mauritian politician. He currently serves as Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change since November 2024 under Navin Ramgoolam's fourth government. Bhagwan has previously held the same ministry between 1996 to 1997 and 2000 to 2005 albeit under modified portfolio titles. Serving as a member of the National Assembly of Mauritius for the Mauritian Militant Movement, Bhagwan holds the current record for having been elected to the assembly continuously since 1983. Bhagwan is currently the secretary general of the Mauritian Militant Movement.



## Lesley Craig

Head of South Asia Regional  
Department  
UK

Lesley Craig is a distinguished British diplomat currently serving as the Head of the South Asia Regional Department at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). With extensive experience across the Indo-Pacific, she plays a pivotal role in shaping the UK's strategic engagement in the region, focusing on maritime security, climate resilience, and trade partnerships. She previously served as the Deputy High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, where she championed human rights and gender equality. Recently, she has led high-level delegations to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to advance technical cooperation and maritime research, underscoring her commitment to regional stability and inclusive governance.



# SPEAKERS



## Shishir Khanal

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Nepal

Shisir Khanal is a Nepali politician who has served as minister of foreign affairs since 27 March 2026. A senior member of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), Khanal is a two-term member of parliament from Kathmandu 6, having been first elected in 2022 and re-elected in the 2026 general election amid the RSP's landslide victory. He briefly served as minister of education, science and technology in 2023. Before politics, Khanal co-founded Teach For Nepal in 2012 and led reconstruction efforts via the Sarvodaya Shramdan movement in Sri Lanka and Haiti.



## Frédéric Bontems

Ambassador of France to Mauritius  
France

Frédéric Bontems studied law ( Master's degree in public law obtained in 1986). A graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies (1986), he is an alumnus of the National School of Administration (Victor Hugo class, 1991).He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2002 and was appointed Head of the Cooperation and Cultural Action Department at the French Embassy in Ivory Coast (2002-2005), then First Counsellor at the French Embassy in Jordan (2005-2008). From 2008, seconded to the French Development Agency , he held the position of Director of Strategic Planning and Foresight .Mr. Frédéric Bontems was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia , and Permanent Representative to the African Union , in September 2016. In September 2020, he was appointed France's Special Envoy for the Sahel . He also served as Secretary General of the Coalition for the Sahel from September 2020 to March 2021 .In August 2023, he joined Mauritius as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic.



# SPEAKERS



## Ji-Hyun Park

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

Park Ji-hyun is a diplomat and the current Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of Madagascar, with concurrent accreditation to Mauritius and the Comoros. Park leads South Korea's strategic engagement in the Indian Ocean region. Her leadership is characterized by a sophisticated approach to resource diplomacy and economic integration. She has been instrumental in aligning South Korean technical expertise with regional development goals, overseeing critical infrastructure initiatives and fostering bilateral cooperation in the management of critical mineral supply chains. Beyond economic interests, Ambassador Park has prioritized maritime security and climate resilience, utilizing the KOICA framework to strengthen South Korea's role as a reliable partner in sustainable growth.



## Fayez Meshel B. Al-Temyat

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Republic of Mauritius

Fayez Meshel B. Al-Temyat is a prominent Saudi diplomat currently serving as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Republic of Mauritius. Ambassador Al-Temyat focuses on key areas of cooperation including trade, investment, renewable energy, and tourism. He is a strong advocate for Saudi Vision 2030, working to position Mauritius as a strategic gateway for Saudi interests in Africa and the Indian Ocean. Known for his active engagement with both government officials and local communities, he has spearheaded initiatives in healthcare, education, and infrastructure to foster long-term mutual growth between the two nations.



# SPEAKERS



## Gustavo Sobrinho Dgedge

State Secretary for Environment,  
Mozambique

Gustavo Sobrinho Dgedge is Secretary of State for Land and Environment at the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries of the Republic of Mozambique. He holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences from the University of Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, in 2004, and is an Associate Professor at the Pedagogical University of Maputo. He is fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, and English, in addition to the national language Xishangane. A university professor at the Pedagogical University since 1993, he has held various leadership and leadership positions, including Deputy Director of Pedagogy at the Pedagogical University, Gaza Branch, from 2005 to 2012; Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Pedagogical University from 2012 to 2014; Dean of the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the Pedagogical University of Maputo from 2014 to 2024; Director of the Master's Program in Environmental Risk Management; and Vice-Rector of the Pedagogical University from 2024 to 2025. He is currently Secretary of State for Land and Environment at the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment, and Fisheries of the Republic of Mozambique.



## Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahyan

Cabinet Minister and Minister of State,  
United Arab Emirates

Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahyan was appointed Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in February 2021, following a minor Cabinet reshuffle. From 2017 to 2021, he served as UAE Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where he played a pivotal role in strengthening bilateral relations and advancing cooperation across multiple sectors, contributing significantly to the shared interests of the two brotherly nations. Between 2013 and 2014, he chaired the UAE Equestrian Federation. During that period, he also underwent training at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



# SPEAKERS



## Irada Zeynalova

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Mauritius

Irada Zeynalova is a Russian journalist and television presenter known for her prominent roles in Russian state television, including anchoring the Sunday edition of "Vremya" on Channel One and hosting the analytical program "Itogi Nedeli" on NTV. She began her professional journalism career in 1997 and built a more than two-decade tenure in the field, working as a correspondent, program author, bureau chief, and presenter across major networks. In September 2024, Zeynalova was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Mauritius by presidential decree, marking a notable shift from journalism to diplomacy. Irada Zeynalova.



## Craig Halbmaier

Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. at the U.S. Embassy in Mauritius

Irada Zeynalova is a Russian journalist and television presenter known for her prominent roles in Russian state television, including anchoring the Sunday edition of "Vremya" on Channel One and hosting the analytical program "Itogi Nedeli" on NTV. She began her professional journalism career in 1997 and built a more than two-decade tenure in the field, working as a correspondent, program author, bureau chief, and presenter across major networks. In September 2024, Zeynalova was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Mauritius by presidential decree, marking a notable shift from journalism to diplomacy. Irada Zeynalova.



# SPEAKERS



## Kevin Ramkaloan

Chief Executive Officer,  
Business Mauritius  
Mauritius

Kevin Ramkaloan is the Chief Executive Officer of Business Mauritius, the nation's apex private-sector organization, where he leads advocacy for economic policy, competitiveness, and industrial relations. With over two decades of high-level experience, he previously served as Director of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) and held leadership roles at the Board of Investment. His expertise spans finance, public policy, and the ocean economy. An accomplished scholar and Fulbright fellow, he holds post-graduate degrees from the University of Cambridge and the University of Maine. Ramkaloan remains a pivotal figure in shaping Mauritius' strategic trajectory, driving sustainable development and foreign investment.



## Huang Shifang

Ambassador of China to Mauritius  
China

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Mauritius China Huang Shifang, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Mauritius, was born in October 1977 and holds a Ph.D. in Economics.



# SPEAKERS



## Nguyen Thanh Hai

Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Vietnam to India

Nguyen Thanh Hai is the Ambassador of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Republic of India.



## Salem Rashed Al-Shebli

Ambassador of State of Kuwait to Mauritius

Kevin Ramkaloan is the Chief Executive Officer of Business Mauritius, the nation's apex private-sector organization, where he leads advocacy for economic policy, competitiveness, and industrial relations. With over two decades of high-level experience, he previously served as Director of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) and held leadership roles at the Board of Investment. His expertise spans finance, public policy, and the ocean economy. An accomplished scholar and Fulbright fellow, he holds post-graduate degrees from the University of Cambridge and the University of Maine. Ramkaloan remains a pivotal figure in shaping Mauritius' strategic trajectory, driving sustainable development and foreign investment.



# SPEAKERS



## Abhimanu Kundasamy

Chief Executive Officer, Economic  
Development Board, Mauritius  
Mauritius

Mr. Abhimanu Kundasamy is the Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Development Board of Mauritius.





# ORGANISING COMMITTEE



# ORGANISING COMMITTEE



## Presidium



### S Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister  
India

H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar is India's External Affairs Minister since May 30th, 2019. He is a Member of the Upper House (Rajya Sabha) of India's Parliament from the state of Gujarat. He was Foreign Secretary from 2015-18, Ambassador to United States (2013-15), China (2009-2013) and Czech Republic (2000-2004). He was High Commissioner to Singapore (2007-2009). He has also served in other diplomatic assignments in Embassies in Moscow, Colombo, Budapest and Tokyo, as well in the Ministry of External Affairs and the President's Secretariat. He was also President – Global Corporate Affairs at Tata Sons Private Limited. Dr S. Jaishankar is a graduate of St. Stephen's College at the University of Delhi. He has a Masters in Political Science and an M. Phil and Ph.D in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.



### Dhananjay Ramful

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional  
Integration and International Trade  
Mauritius

H.E. Dhananjay Ramful is a prominent Mauritian politician and lawyer currently serving as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade. A member of the Labour Party (PTr), he assumed office in November 2024 following the electoral victory of the Alliance du Changement under Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam. Ramful has been a vocal advocate for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), focusing on climate finance, maritime security, and regional integration. He represents Mauritius in major multilateral forums, including the United Nations and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). He frequently emphasizes the importance of the "blue economy" and strengthening strategic partnerships with India and the African Union. Prior to his ministerial appointment, he served as a Member of Parliament and practiced as a barrister.



# ORGANISING COMMITTEE



## Presidium



### Vivian Balakrishnan

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Singapore

H.E. Dr Vivian Balakrishnan is the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He previously served as Minister-in-charge of the Smart Nation Initiative; Minister for the Environment and Water Resources; Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports; Second Minister for Trade and Industry; Minister-in-charge of Entrepreneurship; Second Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts and Minister of State for National Development. He has been a Member of Parliament since 2001. He studied Medicine at the National University of Singapore after being awarded the President's Scholarship in 1980. Following post-graduate specialist training in Ophthalmology, he was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1991. Dr Balakrishnan was the Minister-in-charge of the Smart Nation Initiative from 2014 to 2021.



### Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi

Foreign Minister  
Oman

H.E. Sayyid Badr Al Busaidi is a graduate of Oxford University in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics. He joined the Foreign Ministry in 1989. Since 1996, he has served as ambassador, then Undersecretary in 2000, and Secretary General with rank of Minister since 2007. He was appointed Minister in August 2020. He takes a keen personal interest in youth development, human rights and the advancement of women in public life, besides promoting cultural diplomacy, tolerance and mutual understanding.



# ORGANISING COMMITTEE



## Members



### Ranil Wickremesinghe

Former President  
Sri Lanka

Ranil Wickremesinghe was president of Sri Lanka from 2022-2024. He has been the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka on six occasions. He is the Leader of the United National Party (UNP), Sri Lanka's oldest political party, founded in 1946. He is one of Sri Lanka's most senior and experienced legislators who has served the country as an MP in all Parliaments since 1977 (apart from a break of 10 months from August 2020 to June 2021). Lawyer by profession, he was elected to Parliament in 1977 at the age of 28, having worked in the Youth League of the UNP from his university days. As the youngest Minister in Sri Lanka at the time, he held the post of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs under President Jayewardene. He was also appointed to the Cabinet of Ministers as the Minister of Youth Affairs and Employment and later he was given the portfolio of Education. Then in 1989, as a seasoned legislator, he was made the Leader of the House under President Premadasa. He also served as the Minister of Industries, Science and Technology.



### J. Bissoondoyal

Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Minister  
of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration  
and International Trade  
Mauritius

Ambassador Janmajaising (J.) Bissoondoyal is a career diplomat serving as the Secretary for Foreign Affairs (SFA) of Mauritius. As the administrative head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, he directs the nation's diplomatic service and policy execution. A graduate of the Sorbonne and the École Nationale d'Administration (ENA), Bissoondoyal has held senior roles including Minister Counselor and Deputy High Commissioner. His leadership focuses on regional integration within the SADC and African Union, maritime security in the Indian Ocean, and expanding economic partnerships with key global allies like India.



# ORGANISING COMMITTEE



## Members



### Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu

Former Union Minister and Chairman,  
Governing Council, India Foundation  
India

Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu is a senior Indian statesman, global policy influencer, and respected reform architect with more than four decades of service in public life. He has played a key role in shaping India's economic transformation, environmental governance, cooperative sector reforms, aviation expansion, energy consolidation, and railway modernization. He has served as a Union Cabinet Minister in 10 major ministries, has been elected to Parliament six times, and represented India as the country's Sherpa to the G20 and later to the G7.



### Ram Madhav

President, India Foundation  
India

Ram Madhav is an Indian politician and social leader. Dr Madhav is currently the President of India Foundation (IF), a New Delhi-based Think tank. Previously, he has served as the National General Secretary of the BJP from 2014 to 2020 and handles affairs of Jammu and Kashmir for the party. A renowned strategic thinker and author, Dr Madhav has to his credits a diverse set of publications spanning multiple domains and disciplines. Some of his most recent works include "The New World: 21st Century Global Order and India" ; "Our Constitution Our Pride" ; "The Indian Reality" ; "Partitioned Freedom" ; and "The Hindutva Paradigm" amongst others. As a political philosopher and geopolitical observer, Dr Madhav has been at the centre of curating many Track 1.5 and Track 2 initiatives placing the India story on global stage. As a prolific speaker, Dr Madhav has addressed various multi national forums across the world.



# ORGANISING COMMITTEE



## Members



### M J Akbar

Former Minister of State for External  
Affairs  
India

M J Akbar is an Indian journalist, author, and politician who served as the Minister of State for External Affairs from 2016 to 2018. He was elected to Rajya Sabha from Jharkhand in July 2015. During his long and illustrious career in journalism, he launched, as editor, India's first weekly political news periodicals, including India Today, Headlines Today, The Telegraph, The Asian Age and Deccan Chronicle, among others. He is author of several books including India: The Siege Within: Challenges to a Nation's Unity, Tinderbox: The Past and Future of Pakistan, Doolally Sahib and the Black Zamindar: Racism and Revenge in the British Raj and The Shade of Swords.



### P. Kumaran

Secretary (East), Ministry of External  
Affairs  
India

Shri P. Kumaran belongs to the 1992 batch of the Indian Foreign Service. His first assignment was as Third Secretary in the Embassy of India, Cairo (1994-1997), followed by his posting as Second Secretary in the Embassy of India, Tripoli (1997-2000) and then as First Secretary in the Embassy of India, Brussels (2000-2003). Following this, he returned to India and served as Deputy Secretary [Europe West] in the Ministry of External Affairs (2003-2005). His next assignment was at the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, as Joint Secretary (Consular, Passport & Visa Division) (2014-2016). He then moved to Qatar for his first Ambassadorial assignment, to serve as Ambassador of India, Doha (2016-2020). From Doha, he moved to Singapore as the High Commissioner of India to Singapore (2020-2023). In July 2023, he assumed charge as Additional Secretary (Economic Relations & Development Partnership Administration) and was later promoted to Special Secretary (ER & DPA) in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. He took over his current charge as Secretary (East) on 1st April 2025.



# ORGANISING COMMITTEE



## Members



### Ruchira Kamboj

Former Ambassador  
India

Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj is a distinguished former Indian diplomat with nearly four decades of experience across bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, global strategy and negotiation. Her career has spanned key assignments at the United Nations as well as in Africa, Europe, and the Indian Ocean region, combining regional expertise with a global outlook. Most recently, she served as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York from 2022 to 2024, where she led India's engagement during its Security Council term and presided over the Council in December 2022. As a public speaker and thought leader, she has addressed prestigious forums, including Harvard and Columbia Universities, and has contributed commentaries on global diplomacy, multilateralism, and India's foreign policy. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Delhi and a Bachelor's degree from Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow. She is fluent in Hindi, English, and French.



### Vivek Johri

Former National Security Advisor of  
Mauritius

Vivek Johri is an officer from the 1985 batch of Indian Revenue Service who retired as Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in July 2023. In a career spanning 38 years, Shri Johri handled a variety of assignments in different functional verticals both in field formations as well as the Board but is known for the long years spent in formulation of tax policy. Having spent 17 years in the tax policy vertical of CBIC, he has been involved in preparing as many as 20 Union Budgets. The other highlights of his career include a stint in the Directorate General of Audit when the Audit program for Central Excise and Service Tax was revamped in collaboration with Revenue Canada; the successful conclusion of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement when he was posted as Minister (Customs) at India's Permanent Mission to WTO; subsequent trade facilitation initiatives at Nhava Sheva Customs between 2017 and 2020. His tenure as Member and Chairman of the Board witnessed considerable improvement in administration of GST both from compliance and ease of doing business perspectives.



# ORGANISING COMMITTEE



## Members



### Admiral R Hari Kumar

Former Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy  
India

Admiral R Hari Kumar, is an alumnus of J-Squadron, 61 Course National Defence Academy. He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jan 1983 and has specialised in Gunnery. Admiral R Hari Kumar has commanded Coast Guard Ship C-01, INS Nishank, INS Kora, INS Ranvir and INS Viraat. His other sea-going appointments include Fleet Operations Officer and Fleet Gunnery Officer of Western Fleet, EXO of INS Vipul, GO of INS Ranjit, Commissioning GO of INS Kuthar and Commissioning GO VIII of INS Ranvir. His ashore appointments include Command Gunnery Officer at HQ Western Naval Command, Naval Advisor to Government of Seychelles, Training Commander INS Dronacharya. His Flag appointments include Commandant of Naval War College at Goa, Flag Officer Sea Training, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet, Chief of Staff Western Naval Command, Controller Personnel Services and Chief of Personnel at IHQ MoD (N), and CИСI VCDS at HQIDS.



### Ong Keng Yong

Executive Deputy Chairman, S.  
Rajaratnam School of International  
Studies  
Singapore

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong is Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. He is concurrently Director of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) and Head of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) at RSIS. Mr Ong continues to hold the position of Ambassador-at-Large at the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is also Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to Iran. Mr Ong chairs Humanity Matters, a non-profit humanitarian organisation focused on inter-faith understanding and volunteerism, and is based in Singapore.



# ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Organising Secretary



## Alok Bansal

Executive Vice President, India  
Foundation  
India

Capt. Alok Bansal is the Executive Vice President of India Foundation & the Secretary General of Asian Eurasian Human Rights Forum (AEHRF). A seasoned strategic affairs analyst, he has previously served as the Executive Director of the National Maritime Foundation (NMF) and has held research positions at leading Indian think tanks including the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) and the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS). He has authored/ edited 10 books. His work focuses on maritime security, South Asian geopolitics, and internal dynamics of Pakistan. A former naval officer, he served in the Indian Navy for 32 years and commanded two warships. A PhD in international Affairs, he has been a visiting Professor at Jamia Millia Islamia.





# DELEGATES



# DELEGATES



## A.B Mathur

Member, NSAB  
India

A.B Mathur, a retired Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (2012) and former Head of the UN Mission in North Korea (2012–2014), is currently a Member of the National Security Advisory Board. With nearly five decades of experience, he has worked extensively on national security, conflict resolution, strategic communication, and regional diplomacy, especially in India's neighbourhood including Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the North East. As a peace interlocutor, he played a key role in reintegrating insurgents and fostering stability. An officer of the 1975 batch of the Indian Police Service, he has also served in Indian embassies in Belgium and Pakistan, and has been honoured with medals by both the President and Prime Minister of India.



## A. Subramanyam Raju

Centre Head, Centre for Maritime  
Studies, Pondicherry University  
India

Adluri Subramanyam Raju, former Dean of International Relations, is Professor & Head of the Centre for South Asian Studies; Coordinator of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Madanjeet Singh Chair & UGC Centre for Maritime Studies, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry. He was the recipient of the Mahbub Ul Haq Award (Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Colombo, 2003), Scholar of Peace Award (WISCOMP, New Delhi, 2002) and Kodikara Award (RCSS, Colombo, 1998). He was a Salzburg Seminar Fellow (2006). He received the National Best Teacher Award from C.V.S. Krishnamurthy Theja Charities, Tirupati, in 2017 and the Best Teacher Award twice from Pondicherry University in 2013 & 2018. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies, Colombo, in May 2012. He was a member of the Steering Committee, G 20 University Connect, appointed by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India & Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi.



# DELEGATES



## Adrian Tan

Deputy Director of Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), RSIS  
Singapore

Adrian Tan is the Chief of Policy Research, Head of Special Projects, and Deputy Director at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), part of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He brings extensive experience in diplomacy and strategic affairs, having served with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Singapore, for two decades. His current research focuses on the politics, security, and strategic developments of Southeast Asia, examining regional dynamics, governance, and defense policies. Adrian holds a Master of Arts from Stanford University, USA, and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the National University of Singapore. With his rich combination of academic training and practical diplomatic experience, he contributes significantly to policy research, strategic analysis, and capacity-building initiatives at IDSS, while actively engaging with scholars, policymakers, and international organizations on Southeast Asian affairs.



## Air Vice Marshal Anil Golani (Retd)

Director General, Centre for Aerospace, Power and Strategic Studies (CAPSS)  
India

Air Vice Marshal Anil Golani (Retd) is a distinguished veteran of the Indian Air Force and currently serves as Director General of the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS), New Delhi. Commissioned in 1982, he logged over 3,000 flying hours on Ajeet and Jaguar aircraft and commanded the IAF's first Harpy squadron. His illustrious career includes key leadership roles in the Andaman & Nicobar Command and Strategic Forces Command. A scholar-warrior, he is an alumnus of the Royal College of Defence Studies, London. Beyond his military achievements, Air Vice Marshal Golani is a published author and co-editor, having contributed to several books including Indian Air Force in its Centennial Decade. His work bridges operational expertise, strategic thought, and literary scholarship, making him a prominent voice in defense studies and air power discourse.



# DELEGATES



## Alexey V Kuznetsov

Director, INION RAN  
Russia

Alexey V. Kuznetsov is a leading Russian economist specializing in international economic relations and foreign direct investment. He serves as Director of the Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences under the Russian Academy of Sciences and is a Corresponding Member of the Academy. Kuznetsov holds a Doctor of Sciences in Economics and has held senior roles at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations. He is also a professor at MGIMO University. His research focuses on globalization, transnational corporations, and regional economic development.



## Ali Alqarni

Director, The Asian Study Center,  
Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute for  
Diplomatic Studies, Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia

Dr. Ali Alqarni is Director of the Asian Studies Center at the Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies in Riyadh, where he also serves as an Assistant Professor of media and international communication. He leads research on Saudi Arabia's engagement with Asia, with a focus on evolving geopolitical, economic, and cultural linkages. Dr. Alqarni has held senior advisory roles, including at the MiSK Foundation, and brings extensive diplomatic experience. He previously served as official spokesperson and head of media and communications at the Saudi Embassy in London, and as deputy head of mission and chargé d'affaires at the Saudi Embassy in Paris. His work centres on Gulf-Asia relations, public diplomacy, and strategic communication.



# DELEGATES



## Capt C G Binoop

Commandant, National Coast Guard  
Mauritius

Capt. C. G. Binoop serves as Commandant of the National Coast Guard of Mauritius, overseeing maritime security and coastal surveillance operations.



## Amit Mallick

Director (International Cooperation),  
International Big Cat Alliance  
India

Dr. Amit Mallick is a distinguished conservationist and protection strategist with over 30 years of experience in wildlife policy, protected area management, and national-level conservation programmes. A 1992-batch officer of the Indian Forest Service (Kerala cadre), he most recently served as Inspector General of Forests at the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). In this role, he led the implementation of Project Tiger, steered the fourth and initiated the fifth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation, and played a key role in revising the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) guidelines. Dr. Mallick was instrumental in conceptualizing and operationalizing Project Cheetah and in the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA). He coordinated bilateral cooperation with tiger range countries and represented India in collaboration with key institutions including CITES, SAWEN, UNEP-CMS, and the Global Tiger Forum (GTF).



# DELEGATES



## Anil Trigunayat

Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF)  
India

Amb. Anil Trigunayat is a distinguished member of the Indian Foreign Service with extensive diplomatic experience. He has served in Indian Missions in Côte d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, Mongolia, the USA, Russia, Sweden, Nigeria, Libya, and Jordan. In the Ministry of External Affairs, he worked in the Economic, West Asia and North Africa, and Consular Divisions, and later served as Director General/Joint Secretary for the Gulf and Haj Divisions in New Delhi. He also served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Moscow in the rank of Ambassador. Prior to his superannuation in May 2016, he was Ambassador to Jordan and Libya and High Commissioner to Malta. A postgraduate in Physics, he studied Russian history, culture, and language at Jawaharlal Nehru University and conducted research at Oxford University. He is associated with leading professional and diplomatic institutions in India and abroad.



## Anil Wadhwa

Former Ambassador  
India

Ambassador Anil Wadhwa served in the Indian Foreign Service from July 1979 to May 2017, completing a distinguished 37-year career. He was Ambassador of India to Italy and San Marino, Thailand, Oman, and Poland and Lithuania, and also served in Hong Kong, Beijing (twice), and at India's Permanent Mission in Geneva. He worked on deputation with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, heading media, public affairs, and government relations. In the Ministry of External Affairs, he led the East Europe Division, managing relations with Russia and Eastern Europe. As Secretary (East), he oversaw ties with ASEAN, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific, the GCC, and West Asia. He represented India at major international forums, including ASEAN, ASEM, ADMM, and disarmament conferences, and has written extensively on foreign policy and international security.



# DELEGATES



## Ashik Mayakonda

CEO, MKonda Trading & Filtera Global India

Ashik Mayakonda completed his BSc (Hons) in Business Economics from the University of Exeter, UK. He began his career in the mining and trading sector, specializing in iron ore, which led him to establish his own firm, MKonda Trading. Expanding his entrepreneurial ventures, he also founded Filtera Global Pvt Ltd, a coffee export company. Ashik is set to further his academic pursuits as an incoming MBA (Finance) student at the University of Cambridge in 2026. Beyond his professional and academic engagements, he is actively involved with the Indian Overseas Students Society (IOSS) and participates in initiatives associated with the Sangh, reflecting his commitment to community service and socio-cultural engagement. His combined expertise in business, trade, and finance, along with his dedication to social and cultural causes, positions him as a rising leader in both professional and community spheres.



## Ashok Motwani

Executive Editor Producer, Diaspora Times India

Ashok Motwani associated with Mega Programs: Bharatiya Pravasi Divas, Sindhu Darshan & Goa Film Festival since Inception. Founder Member of Global Organization for PIO's, edits Diaspora Times for Cultural Bond among Diaspora Countries / Nations, currently is Executive Producer to Series of Short Films on Value Education.



# DELEGATES



## Ashok Sajjanhar

Former Ambassador & President,  
Institute of Global Studies, New Delhi  
India

Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar served in the Indian Foreign Service for over 34 years, holding several key diplomatic assignments. He was Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden, and Latvia, and also served in senior positions at Indian Missions in Washington DC, Brussels, Moscow, Geneva, Tehran, Dhaka, and Bangkok, as well as at Headquarters in India. He played an important role in advancing India's diplomatic and economic interests globally. He was actively involved in negotiations during the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and contributed to India-EU, India-ASEAN, and India-Thailand Free Trade Agreements. Ambassador Sajjanhar has been honoured by the Governments of Kazakhstan and Latvia with their National Awards, and by the Universal Peace Federation, New York, with the title of "Ambassador of Peace" in recognition of his contributions.



## Ashok Swarup

Chair and Non Executive Director,  
Seamless (Formerly Sannam S4)  
India

Ashok Swarup is a seasoned business leader with over three decades of experience in corporate affairs, government relations, and market expansion across industries. An alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad and Columbia University's Senior Executive Program, he has held key leadership roles in major organizations. He served as Managing Director for Corporate Affairs and Business Development at Citi India, leading government relations and strategic initiatives. Earlier, he was Director of Corporate Affairs at PepsiCo India and President of Seagram India, where he played a pivotal role in establishing and expanding operations. Currently, he is India Chair and Non-Executive Director at Seamless (formerly Sannam S4), advising global clients on market entry and growth strategies. He is widely recognised for his expertise in navigating India's regulatory environment and fostering strong public-private partnerships across sectors.



# DELEGATES



## Assad Alshamlan

Director, Center for European Studies,  
Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute for  
Diplomatic Studies, Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia

Dr. Asaad Alshamlan is Associate Professor of Political Science & International Relations and Director of the Center for European Studies at Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies in Riyadh. He worked (among other things) as a political consultant for the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) from 2012-2014. His teaching, research and publications relates to: Gulf security, Saudi-American relations, Saudi-British relations, GCC-EU relations, Saudi-Russian relations, Saudi-Chinese relations, Political Islam, Foreign Policy Analysis, contemporary theories of international politics, The Concept of The Political, and Post-Structuralist approaches in political analysis. He holds a BA(Honors) from Carleton University-Canada, and MA. and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Essex-UK.



## Atul Temurnikar

Co-Founder and Chairman, Global  
Schools Foundation (Singapore)  
Singapore

Atul Temurnikar is a prominent member of the education industry in ASEAN, North & South Asia & Middle East. Now he serves as co-founding trustee and Executive Chairman of Singapore-based Global Schools Foundation (GSF), a not-for-profit organisation. He ventured into the education sector after a 16-year technology stint with highly reputable global organisations such as IBM ASEAN South Asia and HCL Technologies. Mr Temurnikar is a staunch advocate of high-quality education that transcends socio-economic boundaries from Korea to Japan in the East, to Singapore to Malaysia in ASEAN and India and Middle East. His significant efforts in the education sector include as a member of the Schools Subcommittee of the National Integration Committee (NIC) set up by the Government of Singapore. Mr Atul participated in recommendation of changes to the Indian Foreign Direct Investment's (FDI) policies for India's education sector, which were then implemented in 2013 with special cabinet approval.



# DELEGATES



## Banuchandar Nagarajan

Public Policy Advisor & Columnist  
India

Banuchandar Nagarajan is a distinguished public policy professional and political strategist. A graduate of Harvard University with a Master's degree in Public Administration, he has held influential positions at global institutions including the World Bank, UNDP, and PricewaterhouseCoopers. In India, he has been closely associated with the parliamentary election campaigns of 2009, 2014, and 2019, playing key advisory and strategic roles. He also served as an advisor to the Minister of Human Resources Development, contributing to policymaking and governance reforms. Beyond his professional work, Mr. Nagarajan is an active commentator on political, economic, and governance issues, regularly writing columns and participating in television panel discussions.



## Brajesh Kumar

Maj Gen (R)  
India

A security analyst with a focus on geopolitics, he writes extensively and participates in seminars and television debates. His expertise spans military infrastructure, energy, and sustainable development. He also serves as a mentor at the Atulya Ganga Foundation, working on the clean and sustainable development of the Ganga basin, and contributes to initiatives supporting veterans through a dedicated NGO. His work combines strategic analysis with active engagement in policy discussions, environmental sustainability, and veteran welfare.



# DELEGATES



## Chheng Kimlong

President, Asian Vision Institute (AVI)  
Cambodia

Dr. Chheng Kimlong holds a PhD in Economics from the Australian National University, a Master in Economics from Kobe University, and a Master in Business Administration from Preston University. Dr. Chheng is Director of Centre for Governance Innovation and Democracy (CGID) of the Asian Vision Institute (AVI) and is Senior Researcher at the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), Cambodia. He has had over 12 years of practical experience in quantitative and qualitative research and consultancy for local research think tanks and international development agencies. He has tracked and researched on key areas of Cambodian economy, including agriculture, trade, investment, financial sector, garment and footwear industries, oil and gas sectors, and real estate sector.



## Chirayu Thakkar

Dean's Fellow, National University of  
Singapore  
India

Chirayu Thakkar holds a PhD in International Relations from the National University of Singapore and King's College London, with prior experience in both think tanks and government. He is the author and editor of two forthcoming books and a special journal issue on India's maritime grand strategy. His research focuses on India's foreign and security policies, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. Thakkar has contributed to over 50 publications and regularly shares his insights on international politics across major news channels. His work bridges academic scholarship and policy analysis, making him a prominent voice in strategic and geopolitical discourse in South Asia.



# DELEGATES



## Come Carpentier

Distinguished Fellow, India  
Foundation  
India

Côme Carpentier de Gourdon is Distinguished Fellow with India Foundation and is also the Convener of the Editorial Board of the WORLD AFFAIRS JOURNAL. He is an associate of the International Institute for Social and Economic Studies (IISES), Vienna, Austria. Côme Carpentier is an author of various books and several articles, essays and papers



## Dao Ngoc Bau

Director General of the Institute of  
Politics and International Relations  
Vietnam

Dr. Dao Ngoc Bau is a prominent Vietnamese political scientist and academic administrator, currently serving as the Director General of the Institute of Politics and International Relations at the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (HCMA) in Hanoi. In this capacity, he plays a central role in shaping the training and development of Vietnam's mid-level and senior officials, influencing the country's strategic policymaking and governance. Dr. Bau's work spans political theory, international relations, and multilateral diplomacy, contributing to Vietnam's engagement with regional and global partners. He is recognized for fostering scholarly research and practical policy insights, bridging academia and governance. Through his leadership, the HCMA serves as a pivotal platform for policy innovation, leadership development, and strategic discourse, strengthening Vietnam's institutional capacity and its participation in international diplomatic arenas.



# DELEGATES



## Deepa Prakash

Managing Director, Kadamba Nanom Pvt. Ltd.  
India

Deepa Prakash is the Managing Director of Kadamba Nanom Pvt. Ltd., a pioneering family-led enterprise with global expertise in green nanotechnology. Kadamba has advanced the conservation and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants through patented processes that preserve biodiversity while enhancing therapeutic value and commercial potential. Its cutting-edge technologies include AYUSH-approved green nano traditional plant medicines as well as high-science innovations aimed at addressing epidemic malnutrition. In addition to her scientific leadership, Dr. Deepa serves as an Independent Director at Vinyas Innovative Technologies Public Limited, Mysuru, a defence electronics company. She is also a Board Director at Kadamba Souharda Cooperative Society, a technology-enabled financial institution promoting inclusion for vulnerable communities.



## Deepa Wadhwa

Former Ambassador  
India

Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa is a distinguished former diplomat of the Indian Foreign Service. She was the first Indian woman appointed Ambassador to the Gulf State of Qatar and later served as Ambassador to Japan. She has also represented India as Ambassador to Sweden, Latvia, and the Republic of Marshall Islands. Earlier in her career, she served twice in China, as well as in Switzerland and the Netherlands. She played a significant role in promoting India's economic interests, particularly in trade, technology, investment, and energy security. At the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, she served as Joint Secretary handling India's relations with the United Nations and its agencies, including UNICEF, ILO, UNDP, and WHO. She has worked extensively on human rights, disarmament, and environmental issues. A graduate of Madras University, she joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1979.



# DELEGATES



## Devanand RG

Consultant, Value Weave  
India

Devanand is a consultant at Value Weave. A former tech entrepreneur turned social innovator, he is a Strategic Business Connector and Value Architect dedicated to building purpose-driven communities and enabling ethical wealth creation.



## Dhruv Katoch

Director, India Foundation  
India

Maj. Gen. Dhruv C. Katoch (Retd.) is a third-generation officer of the Indian Army with nearly four decades of distinguished service. An alumnus of Sherwood College, Nainital, the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington; the Higher Command Course, Mhow; and the National Defence College, New Delhi, he holds an MPhil in Defence Studies from Madras University and was conferred a Doctor of Philosophy (Honoris Causa) by Indira Gandhi University, Rewari, in 2016. He regularly speaks on national security, defence, and foreign policy issues at conferences, on news channels, and in academic forums. He has edited/co-edited eight books and contributed chapters to over a dozen publications. His articles have been published in leading defence journals, magazines, and newspapers. He has served as the Director of the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), the Indian Army's premier think tank and is presently the Director of India Foundation.



# DELEGATES



## G Subba Rao

Executive Director, GMR Power and Urban Infra  
India

G. Subba Rao is the Executive Director of GMR Power and Urban Infra and serves as the Group Deputy Managing Director of the GMR Group, with over 28 years of association. He is currently overseeing the development of two Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation (DFCC) projects and is responsible for Group Corporate Communications, including websites and media relations. He also heads corporate affairs for the Group. Over the years, he has held diverse and multifaceted roles, contributing significantly to the Group's growth. He played a pivotal role in securing the Delhi Airport bid for GMR. As CEO of the GMR Hydro Business, he successfully ensured financial closure and commissioning of the Bajoli Holi Hydro Power Project. Prior to joining GMR, he worked with Andhra Bank and ING Vysya Bank in responsible positions, gaining extensive experience in the banking sector.



## Giridhar Mamidi

Core Toli member  
India

He is a senior panelist, analyst on international, strategic, defence, economic, cultural and political affairs. He is also an activist working for India 1st thinkers and intellectuals. He is an avid traveller discovering the ancient past of Bharat. He is a speaker and writer.



# DELEGATES



## Gitanjali Sinha Roy

Assistant Professor, O.P. Jindal Global University  
India

Gitanjali Sinha Roy is an Assistant Professor of International Relations, Indo-Pacific Studies, and Japanese Studies at the Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University. She serves as Director of the Pankaj Kumar Jha Centre for Security Studies and as Assistant Dean of Admissions. She is also Assistant Director of the Motwano Jadeja Institute for American Studies (MJIAS) and Jindal India Institute (JII). Dr. Sinha Roy earned her Ph.D. on “India-Japan Maritime Relations with China as a Common Factor,” conducting detailed research on the Indian Ocean, East China Sea, and South China Sea, focusing on India, Japan, China, and Southeast Asian nations. She previously served as Research Assistant at the United Service Institution of India and as Research Associate and Japan Division Fellow at CESCUBE. She is also honorary Coordinator at MOSAI, MEXT Indo Group, managing projects on India-Japan relations with a focus on language and culture.



## Him Raksmeay

Executive Director, Cambodian Center for Regional Studies (CCRS)  
Cambodia

Him Raksmeay is currently the Executive Director of the Cambodian Center for Regional Studies (CCRS), an independent foreign policy think tank based in Cambodia. He was a research fellow at the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) from 2018-2023. From March 2022 to December 2023, he also was a researcher at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), and a lecturer at the Department of International Relations (DIR), Institute for International Studies and Public Policy (IISPP), Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP). His research interests include: Cambodia’s Domestic and Foreign Affairs, ASEAN and Political Security in Southeast Asia as well as various strategic trends concerning the region.



# DELEGATES



## Grace Corcoran

Senior Policy and Projects Manager –  
Security and Geopolitics, Australia  
India Institute  
Australia

Grace Corcoran is Senior Policy and Projects Manager – Security and Geopolitics at the Australia India Institute, where she leads research on Australian foreign policy in the Indian Ocean, maritime security, and unilateral cooperation. She brings more than ten years of experience designing and delivering high-level dialogues, strategic initiatives, and policy research across South and Southeast Asia. Grace has lived and worked across the Indian Ocean region, with professional experience spanning women's empowerment, health promotion, human rights advocacy, and policy-focused think tanks. She currently manages multiple research projects, including analysis of the Australia-India-France trilateral, two separate projects on unilateralism and undersea infrastructure in the Indian Ocean, Australia-India-Republic of Korea defence synergies, and electoral trends across Indian Ocean states in 2026. Grace was a finalist of the 2025 Asia Society Leadership Awards and was recognised as one of Australia's Young Women to Watch in International Affairs in 2023.



## Happymon Jacob

Founder & Director, Council for  
Strategic and Defence Research  
India

Happymon Jacob is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Shiv Nadar University (SNU), Delhi NCR, where he contributes to teaching, research, and policy engagement. Prior to joining SNU, he served on the faculty of Jawaharlal Nehru University for 17 years, building a strong academic and research profile in strategic studies and international relations. Prof. Jacob is the editor of India's World magazine and a noted author, with works including Line on Fire: Ceasefire Violations and India-Pakistan Escalation Dynamics (OUP, 2019) and Line of Control: Traveling with the Indian and Pakistani Armies (Penguin Viking, 2018), both critically acclaimed for their insights into South Asian security dynamics. A regular columnist for Hindustan Times, he is deeply committed to bridging the gap between scholarship and policy, making complex international issues accessible to academics, policymakers, and the broader public alike.



# DELEGATES



## Jagjeet Sareen

Partner and India Head, Dalberg  
Advisors  
India

Jagjeet Sareen is a Partner and India Head at Dalberg Advisors, based in Delhi, where he leads climate-related projects across Asia Pacific and globally. Prior to joining Dalberg, he served as Assistant Director-General at the International Solar Alliance and as a Senior Policy Officer in the Global Climate Practice at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. With over 20 years of experience, his work focuses on green infrastructure, investment, and climate finance. He has worked with leading global institutions including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Green Climate Fund, United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Ernst & Young, and TERI. He has facilitated international climate finance negotiations and supported the design of global climate funds at the UN and multilateral development banks. Jagjeet holds a master's degree in Sustainability Management from the Indian Institute of Forest Management and a BSc in Agricultural Economics from Punjab Agricultural University.



## Jane Chan

Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the  
Maritime Security Programme, RSIS  
Singapore

Jane Chan is a Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Maritime Security Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. Her main research interests include maritime security issues in Southeast Asia, law and order at sea, regional maritime cooperation and confidence-building measures, and regional boundary delimitation and territorial disputes. She is an affiliated faculty at the Singapore Arm Forces (SAF)-NTU Academy (SNA). Her recent publication includes Christian Bueger and Jane Chan (eds.), *Paving the Way for Regional Maritime Domain Awareness: Information Fusion Centre*, Nanyang Technological University, 2019, Sam Bateman, Rajni Gamage and Jane Chan (eds.), *ASEAN and the Indian Ocean: The Key Maritime Links*, RSIS Monograph, 2017, Vijay Sakhuja and Jane Chan (eds.), *China's Maritime Silk Road and Asia*, (VIJ Books India Pvt Ltd, 2016), Geoffrey Till and Jane Chan (eds.), *'Naval Development in Southeast Asia'* (Routledge, 2014).



# DELEGATES



## Jayantha Perera

Former Naval Commander  
Sri Lanka

Admiral Jayantha Perera was the 19th Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy. He obtained his first Master of Science degree in Defence Studies from the University of Madras, and later pursued a second Master of Science degree in Defence and Strategic Studies at the National Defence University of Islamabad, Pakistan. Admiral Perera held several senior naval appointments and became the first Commanding Officer of the SLN flagship Sayura in 2000. His distinguished service in protecting the nation earned him recognition for professionalism and leadership. He has been the recipient of several gallantry medals awarded for acts of bravery performed both on the battlefield and at sea. His career reflects dedication, strategic insight, and commitment to national security, making him one of the notable naval leaders of Sri Lanka.



## Jigar Inamdar

Vising Fellow  
India

Jigar Champaklal Inamdar is a seasoned academic and expert in public administration with degrees in Commerce, Law, Political Science, and a Ph.D. in Public Administration. He currently serves as Chairman of the Governing Body at Ramanujan College, University of Delhi, and is on the Advisory Committee at the Centre for Global Studies, DU. He is Convener of Samanway Pratishthan, Vadodara; Advisor to Ward Wizard Foundation; and Visiting Fellow at the India Foundation. Formerly, he was Senate and Syndicate Member at MS University of Baroda, and Founder Director of its Institute of Leadership & Governance. Dr. Inamdar has held key roles in government, including Regional Director of ICCR (MEA) and Convener at the Swami Vivekananda Youth Board (MoYAS, Gujarat). Politically active, he served as State Secretary of BJYM Gujarat and contested the 2007 Gujarat Assembly elections as a BJP candidate.



# DELEGATES



## JS Mukul

Professor Emeritus, Sushant University  
India

J.S. Mukul has been associated with Sushant University for over three years and currently serves as Professor Emeritus in the School of Business and Director of International Relations. With a distinguished 40-year diplomatic career, he has held several senior positions in the Indian Foreign Service. He served as Dean of the Foreign Service Institute (now Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service), India's premier training institution for diplomats. He was Ambassador of India to the Netherlands and Oman, and Consul General in Munich, Germany. His overseas postings include Damascus, Abu Dhabi, Kandy, Colombo, Geneva, and Riyadh. In the Ministry of External Affairs, he handled multilateral economic relations and led India's flagship ITEC development partnership programme. He also served as Deputy Sherpa for the G20 process and was closely involved in six G20 Summits, contributing to global diplomatic engagements.



## Keerthi Martyn

Research Assistant, CNAS  
USA

Keerthi Martyn is a Research Assistant for the Indo-Pacific Security Program at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS). His work focuses on South Asia, particularly U.S. policy in the Indian Ocean region, examining geopolitics, security, and strategic dynamics involving India and small littoral states such as Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Prior to joining CNAS, Martyn worked at the Congressional Research Service (CRS) in the Asia section of the foreign affairs, defense, and trade division, analyzing political, economic, and human rights developments in India and Sri Lanka. He was also a Fulbright scholar at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies in Sri Lanka, conducting research on strengthening bilateral cooperation and exploring avenues to enhance U.S.-Sri Lanka relations. Martyn's expertise bridges policy analysis, regional security, and diplomatic engagement in the Indo-Pacific.



# DELEGATES



## Khush Atul Brahmbhatt

Convenor, Gujrat Thinkers Federation  
India

Adv. Khush Brahmbhatt is an Bhartiya legal professional, public policy practitioner and youth leadership advocate working at the intersection of law, governance, institutional reform and sustainable development. Based in Vadodara, Bharat, he is the Founder of Aadharshila Law, where his work focuses on regulatory frameworks, corporate governance, dispute resolution and legal capacity-building. With academic training in Business Administration, Law and Human Resource Management, he brings a multidisciplinary perspective to policy design and institutional accountability. His areas of engagement align closely with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



## Krishna Chaitanya Balam

Director - PwC  
U.S.A

Krishna Chaitanya Balam is a U.S.-based business leader and serves as the coordinator for India Foundation's activities in the United States. He plays a key role in managing high-level delegations and enabling policy linkages that bridge Indian and U.S. stakeholders across government, industry, and strategic institutions. Drawing on his experience at PwC and across multiple ventures, he works at the intersection of business, policy, and strategy, facilitating sustained U.S.-India collaboration and long-term partnerships.



# DELEGATES



## Laurent Amar

Political Counsellor, Embassy of France  
Mauritius

Laurent Amar is a career diplomat with 25 years of experience in European affairs and international development. Laurent served as a Political Counsellor at the Embassy of France, bringing extensive expertise from various high-level roles within the French government and international institutions. Laurent worked for the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) as the Deputy Head of the Asia and Africa Department, where oversight of critical regional development initiatives was a primary focus. Laurent also served as the Diplomatic Adviser to the Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transportation and Housing, playing a direct role in high-stakes international negotiations on climate change.



## Lt. Gen. Arun Kumar Sahni

Governing Council, India Foundation  
India

Lt. Gen. Arun Kumar Sahni is a decorated, scholar – soldier, with 40 years of commissioned service in the Indian Army. In his last assignment, tenanted the second highest rank of the army, he was the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of one of the six operational commands of the Indian Army. His experience encompasses command and staff assignments, in the country's most in hospitable and conflict affected areas to battle external and internal security challenges. He has displayed exceptional leadership ability to motivate his teams to achieve results far above expectations, be it along the disputed international borders against our neighbours or combating insurgency in India and abroad.



# DELEGATES

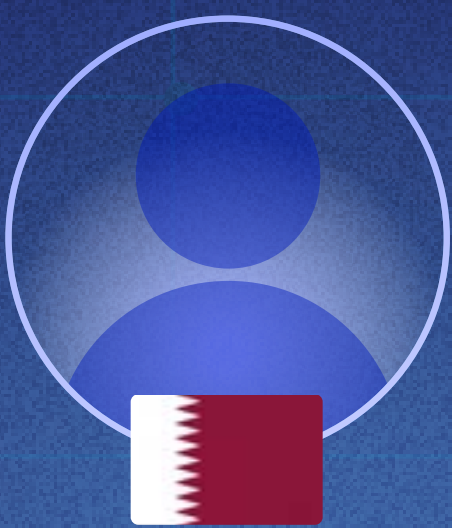


## Lt Gen Dushyant Singh

Director General, Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)  
India

Lt. Gen. Dushyant Singh PVSM, AVSM (retd.), Director General, Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), has had a distinguished military career, beginning with his commissioning into the 9th Battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment, in December 1981. A well-acclaimed officer, Lt Gen Singh is an alumnus of prestigious institutions such as the National Defence College (NDC), Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), College of Defence Management (CDM), and Naval Postgraduate School in California, USA. He has attended the Regional Defence Counter Terrorism Programme with specialisation in Terrorist Operations and Financing in USA.

Throughout his service, Lt Gen Singh has operated in diverse terrains, both in India and abroad as a United Nations Military Observer. Notably, he has served twice in the elite National Security Guards, holding the roles of Deputy Inspector General (Operations) and Inspector General (Operations)



## Rashid Mohd E. Al-Khelaifi

Chargé d'Affaires  
Qatar

H.E. Rashid Mohd E. Al-Khelaifi serves as Chargé d'Affaires of the State of Qatar.



# DELEGATES



## Tahiry SOJARISON

Chargé d'Affaires  
Madagascar

Tahiry Sojarison serves as Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of Madagascar in Mauritius.



## Major General A S M Ridwanur Rahman

Director General,  
Bangladesh Institute of International  
and Strategic Studies  
Bangladesh

Major General A S M Ridwanur Rahman, awc, afwc, psc, G took over as the Director General of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) on 01 December 2025.

Major General Ridwan was commissioned from the Bangladesh Military Academy in the Regiment of Artillery on 21 December 1990 with 23rd BMA Long Course. He commanded an artillery regiment, two artillery brigades and an infantry division. He served twice under the blue helmet: as a contingent member in UNIKOM (Kuwait) and as a staff officer in MONUSCO (DR Congo). The General's military career includes staff assignments in two infantry brigades, and at key directorates of the Army Headquarters, namely Overseas Operations, Military Operations and Military Training Directorate.



# DELEGATES



## Maj Gen PK Goswami

Director, USI  
India

Major General PK Goswami, VSM (Retd), serves as the Deputy Director General at the United Service Institution (USI) of India and as Director of USI CUNS. He is the chief coordinator for all activities related to the United Nations and peacekeeping operations. A distinguished veteran, he served as a Military Observer with the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) from 1991 to 1992, gaining firsthand experience in international conflict resolution and peacekeeping. Major General Goswami has also been Senior Directing Staff at the National Defence College, New Delhi, contributing to the strategic education of senior military and civilian leaders. Throughout his career, he has represented India in multiple national and international forums on defence and peacekeeping. His expertise spans military strategy, UN operations, and multilateral security cooperation, making him a leading voice in defence studies and global security discourse.



## Mehmet Seyfettin EROL

Faculty Member of Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University; President of the Ankara Centre for Crisis and Policy Studies (ANKASAM)  
Turkey

Prof. Mehmet Seyfettin Erol is a distinguished Turkish academic, geopolitical strategist, and Founding President of the Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Studies (ANKASAM). He serves as Professor of International Relations at Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University. An alumnus of Boğaziçi and Ankara Universities, Prof. Erol is a leading authority on Eurasian geopolitics, Turkish foreign policy, and the Turkic world. His research explores regional security, crisis management, and the dynamics of "Great Power" rivalries. A prolific author and editor, he has published more than a dozen books and numerous research papers, contributing significantly to scholarship on international relations. He also provides expert analysis to major media outlets and academic journals, influencing both public discourse and policy debates. Prof. Erol combines academic rigor with practical insight, shaping understanding of Turkey's strategic positioning in global affairs.



# DELEGATES



## Moshobab Alkahtani

Director General, The Asian Study Center, Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies, Riyadh Saudi Arabia

Dr. Moshobab bin Ayed Al-Qahtani serves as the Director General of the Prince Saud Al-Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies (IDS) and also heads its Asian Study Center. A seasoned expert in knowledge diplomacy, Dr. Al-Qahtani plays a pivotal role in shaping Saudi Arabia's diplomatic training programs and strategic research initiatives. His work spans maritime security, Asian bilateral relations, and fostering international cooperation, contributing to the Kingdom's global engagement strategy. Under his leadership, IDS has become a key center for research, dialogue, and capacity building in diplomacy and international affairs. Dr. Al-Qahtani has been instrumental in designing programs that strengthen diplomatic skills, promote cross-cultural understanding, and enhance Saudi Arabia's role in regional and multilateral platforms. His expertise and guidance are widely recognized across academic, policy, and diplomatic circles in the Middle East and Asia.



## Neetu Garg

Project Manager, IBM India

Neetu Garg is the founder of Saarathi Foundation and has been working with IBM for over two decades, bringing extensive experience in the corporate sector. She has been actively involved in initiatives focused on social impact, community development, and women's empowerment through her foundation. As a Special Invitee in the BJP Women Wing, she contributes to discussions and efforts aimed at strengthening women's participation in public life. She is also a Governing Council Member of IWA (INSA Women Associates), where she engages with networks promoting women in science and leadership. With a strong commitment to social service, she has worked on various grassroots initiatives, fostering awareness, education, and support systems for underrepresented communities. Her work reflects a blend of professional expertise and dedication to societal development.



# DELEGATES



## Nidhi Bahuguna

Senior Research Fellow, Asian  
Eurasian Human Rights Forum (AEHRF)  
India

Nidhi Bahuguna is a freelance author, and researcher with a deep focus on South Asian geopolitics and regional studies. She is a member of the Centre for Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir Studies (previously JKSC), where she contributes to scholarly research and policy discussions on issues related to governance, regional security, and socio-political developments in the region. Nidhi also serves as a Senior Research Fellow at the Asian Eurasian Human Rights Forum (AEHRF), engaging in research and advocacy on human rights, minority issues, and humanitarian concerns across Asia and Eurasia. Her work combines rigorous field research, analytical insight, and policy-oriented scholarship, making her a prominent voice in understanding complex regional dynamics. Through her writing, research, and advocacy, Nidhi aims to promote informed dialogue, sustainable development, and human rights awareness in conflict-affected and strategic regions.



## P.K. Roy

Member, Governing Council, India  
Foundation  
India

Air Marshal P.K. Roy (Retd) is a distinguished officer of the Indian Air Force and served as the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, India's only tri-service integrated command. Commissioned in 1975, he held several critical appointments including Director General (Operations) at Air Headquarters. He is known for his strategic foresight in joint operations, air defense, and military coordination. A graduate of the National Defence Academy and a recipient of the PVSM, AVSM, and VSM, Roy played a key role in enhancing India's maritime and aerial capabilities. He also contributed significantly to strengthening jointness among the armed forces. Post-retirement, he remains actively engaged in strategic and security discourse, contributing through lectures, writings, and policy discussions in India.



# DELEGATES



## Paco Milhiet

Research Fellow, RSIS  
Singapore

Dr. Paco Milhiet is a Research Fellow at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. He was previously a lecturer at the French Air Force Academy, Sciences Po Aix, and the University of French Polynesia. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations, jointly conferred by the University of French Polynesia and the Catholic Institute of Paris. His research interests include France's Indo-Pacific strategy, the French overseas territories, and the geopolitics of the South Pacific region.



## Pankaj Saran

Convenor, NatStrat  
India

Pankaj Saran is a former diplomat with forty years of experience in foreign, strategic and national security affairs. He has served in key positions within the Government of India in the Prime Minister's Office, the National Security Council Secretariat, Ministry of External Affairs and in several Indian Missions abroad. From 2018 to 2021, he served as the Deputy National Security Adviser for Strategic Affairs under Prime Minister Narendra Modi dealing with regional and global strategy formulation, including maritime security and Arctic affairs, neighbourhood policy and technology and economic security. Pankaj Saran is presently Convenor of NatStrat, a Delhi-based independent Centre for Research on Strategic and Security Issues. He is a Member of the National Security Advisory Board and a Distinguished Fellow of the National Maritime Foundation.



# DELEGATES



## Phil Midland

President, IHS International LLC  
USA

Phil Midland served 22 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring as Captain. During his naval career, he held significant positions as Executive Assistant to the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic/Commander-in-Chief U.S. Atlantic Command, Chief of Staff for Intelligence of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, and as U.S. Naval Attaché to the People's Republic of China. Mr. Midland led a variety of key international negotiations, which included framing the new defense relationship with the People's Republic of China and the associated technology transfer during the Reagan Administration; successful negotiations to upgrade command and control networks between the U.S., Japan, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, and Korea; re establishing military links with India and South Africa; and as key staff to national level command during Operation Restore Democracy in Haiti.



## Prabhat Upadhyaya

Adviser on International Cooperation  
and Multilateral Affairs, African  
Climate Foundation  
South Africa

Prabhat has been working at the interface of diplomacy, research and advocacy on climate policy for close to two decades. Prior to joining the Foundation, he served as the Senior Policy Specialist on Climate and Energy with India's G-20 Secretariat at India's Ministry of External Affairs. In this role, he ably supported the Indian G-20 Sherpa and the Indian negotiating team for building consensus on the Green Development Pact, including on the tripling of Renewable Energy Globally by 2030. He has a strong, political, diplomatic and technical understanding of both the UNFCCC and G-20 processes and their historical evolution, as well as a good understanding of evolving geopolitics of energy transitions and domestic politics in emerging economies.



# DELEGATES



## Pradeep S Mehta

Secretary General, CUTS International  
India



Pradeep S. Mehta is the Founder Secretary General of the Jaipur-based Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International), one of India's leading consumer advocacy organizations. With decades of experience in public policy, he has played a significant role in promoting consumer rights, fair trade practices, and regulatory reforms in India and globally. He was educated at The Scindia School, Gwalior, pursued a B.Com from St. Xavier's College, Calcutta, and studied law at the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. Mehta is a prolific author and has written extensively on policy, governance, and economic regulation. He is also a regular columnist, contributing to several leading national and international publications.



## Prasad Kariyawasam

Former Foreign Secretary,  
Government of Sri Lanka  
Sri Lanka



Prasad Kariyawasam is the former Foreign Secretary of the Government of Sri Lanka and a distinguished career diplomat. He served as Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the United States and as High Commissioner to India, Bhutan, and Afghanistan, playing a key role in strengthening bilateral and regional relations. He also represented Sri Lanka as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in both Geneva and New York, where he actively contributed to multilateral diplomacy. During his tenure, he was a member of important UN panels dealing with migrant workers and disarmament issues. Ambassador Kariyawasam has been a strong advocate of regional integration and cooperation in South Asia, promoting dialogue and collaboration among neighboring countries. With decades of diplomatic experience, he continues to contribute to discussions on international relations, governance, and regional stability through his engagements and policy insights.



# DELEGATES



## Preeti Saran

Governing Council, India Foundation  
India

Preeti Saran is a distinguished former diplomat who served as Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. She joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1982 and has had a long and accomplished career in diplomacy. She served as Ambassador of India to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and held diplomatic postings in Toronto, Geneva, Cairo, Dhaka, and Moscow. In New Delhi, she handled key responsibilities as Joint Secretary (SAARC/North), Deputy Secretary and Director (Establishment/East Asia), and Under Secretary in ICCR/AMS divisions. She has been closely involved in regional diplomacy, multilateral engagement, and cultural relations. Since 2019, Ambassador Saran has served as a Member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). Her work reflects deep expertise in international relations, regional cooperation, and global governance issues.



## PVSLN Murthy

Chairman and MD, NEDFi  
India

PVSLN Murthy is currently the Chairman and Managing Director of North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi) who formerly worked as Chief General Manager (CGM) and Chief Strategy Officer (CSO) of largest public sector bank - State Bank of India (SBI), brings with him 40+ years of rich Commercial and Development Banking experience in diverse and varied areas of Financial System. Prior to joining NEDFi as Chairman & Managing Director - CMD, Mr. Murthy was posted as Chief Strategy Officer at SBI, based at the Corporate office, Mumbai. Mr. Murthy had also experience of serving the North Eastern Region of India for more than 3-years as Chief General Manager and Regional Head during the period of 2015-2018 while in SBI. Besides serving as member on the Board of Directors of NEDFi from June 2016 to November 2018, he was also on the Boards of Indian Institute of Bank Management (IIBM), ATTF and many large Industrial Corporates. He was instrumental in bringing up APONGHAR a popular Housing Loan Scheme for the Govt. of Assam employees, in collaboration with Assam Government.



# DELEGATES



## Rajesh Bahadur Thapa

Senior Project Coordinator (Glaciers-to-Ocean), ICIMOD  
Nepal

Rajesh is a Senior Remote Sensing and Geoinformation Specialist and provides scientific leadership to the geospatial theme at ICIMOD. He is the Science and Data Lead for SERVIR-HKH (a joint NASA and USAID partnership) Initiative at ICIMOD, and previously worked as Theme Leader for Geospatial Theme, Group Lead for Land Use Land Cover Group, and Capacity Building Lead for SERVIR-HKH. Rajesh has over 25 years of experience working in Asia, including in Nepal, Thailand, and Japan. Prior to joining ICIMOD in 2016, he has served at Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) working for the Japanese Earth observing missions ALOS, ALOS-2, and PiSAR-L2. He was a visiting professor at the University of Tsukuba, Japan. He is a geographer, geospatial science practitioner, writer, and seeker.



## Rupa Vasudevan

Chancellor, BEST IU  
India

Rupa Vasudevan is a distinguished educationist and Founder and Chancellor of Bharatiya Engineering Science and Technology Innovation University (BESTIU), a state private university in Andhra Pradesh. She is also Co-Founder and Global President of the World Forum for Education, an independent non-profit focused on sustainable development, cultural reconnection, and building a global knowledge ecosystem. An influential voice in education policy and sustainability, she has represented India at numerous national and international forums. Dr. Vasudevan serves as a Governing Body Member of the INSA Women's Association under the Indian National Science Academy and as an Academic Nominee on the Karnataka State Higher Education Council. With a strong commitment to innovation and inclusive education, she continues to promote initiatives that foster global collaboration, academic excellence, and impactful learning aligned with emerging global challenges.



# DELEGATES



## Rishan de Silva

Executive Director, Geopolitical  
Cartographer  
Sri Lanka

Rishan is the Executive Director of the Geopolitical Cartographer. Since 2015, he has worked closely with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in Sri Lanka, serving as Senior Research Analyst in the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs, and the Ministry of Finance. He has also held the position of Director in the President's Office, advising President Wickremesinghe on international affairs and strategic policy matters. Rishan's expertise spans political analysis, international relations, and economic governance, contributing to policy formulation at the highest levels of government. He holds an undergraduate degree in International Political Science from Columbia University, New York (Cum Laude), and a Master's degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Oxford, UK. Combining academic rigor with hands-on governmental experience, Rishan is recognized for his deep insights into geopolitics, policy strategy, and global economic affairs.



## Sai Krishna Avunoori

CEO, Nationalist Hub  
India

Sai Krishna Avunoori is a news journalist with over 18 years of experience in the media industry. Over the past six years, he has also ventured into entrepreneurship as the founder of the web news platform Nationalist Hub. The platform operates alongside regional news channels and is driven by a "Nation First" ideology. Through Nationalist Hub, Avunoori focuses on critical issues such as internal security, external affairs, and countering long-standing misinformation about India with fact-based reporting. His work is particularly noted for impactful ground reports from sensitive and strategically significant regions, including Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370, Ladakh during periods of heightened India-China tensions, and Bangladesh during Sheikh Hasina's tenure as Prime Minister. His reporting from these regions has received critical acclaim for its depth and perspective.



# DELEGATES



## Saliem Fakir

Executive Director, African Climate Foundation  
South Africa

Saliem Fakir is the Executive Director of the African Climate Foundation. Prior to establishing the ACF, Saliem served as the Head of the Policy & Futures Unit of WWF South Africa for 11 years. Saliem has worked as a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Public Administration and Planning and an Associate Director for the Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy at Stellenbosch University. Prior to that he served as Director of the World Conservation Union, South Africa (IUCN-SA) for eight years. Saliem has served on a number of Boards and is a prolific writer who contributes regularly to leading South African publications like Engineering News, Business Day and the Daily Maverick.



## Sandhya Jain

Senior Journalist  
India

Sandhya Jain is a journalist, author, and independent researcher who writes extensively on contemporary affairs and civilisational issues. Her published works include *Ayyappa: Unique Sampradāya* (Knowledge World, 2024) and *Balochistan in the Crosshairs of History* (Knowledge World, 2021). A keen student of Indian civilisation, she has explored the primordial roots of Indian culture in tribal traditions through her work *Adi Deo Arya Devata: A Panoramic View of Tribal-Hindu Cultural Interface* (Rupa, 2004). She has also edited a volume on Jammu and Kashmir titled *J&K: Invisible Faultlines* (Pentagon Press, 2019). Jain contributes regularly to platforms such as Chintan India Foundation Blog, India Foundation Journal, Agni magazine, and World Affairs. She also edits the online opinion forum Vijayvaani, where she curates and presents perspectives on national issues and public discourse in India.



# DELEGATES



## Shamsul Arefin

Chairman, Bangladesh Foundation  
for Regional Studies  
Bangladesh

ASM Shamsul Arefin has served the armies of Pakistan and then Bangladesh, which he joined as a freedom fighter during the 1971 Liberation. He is now chairman of Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies working on the Asia-Pacific Region. Arefin is author of the multi-volume magnum opus on Bangladesh Election and has written a number of books on the Bangladesh Liberation War.



## Capt. Asiva Coopen

Director, Shipping  
Mauritius

Capt. Asiva Coopen is the Director of Shipping in the Shipping Division of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, and Shipping in Mauritius. A qualified Master Mariner (UK), he oversees maritime standards, port security, and bunker regulations. He also represents Mauritius at international maritime events.



# DELEGATES



## Shuva Raha

Fellow and lead- International Cooperation, Council on Energy, Environment and Water  
India

Shuva leads the International Cooperation programme at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), overseeing initiatives across five regions – Asia-Oceania, West Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. Her work spans energy and resource security, climate resilience, the macroeconomics of emerging economies, global governance and multilateralism, digitalisation, AI, and complex nexus challenges. She brings a strong interdisciplinary perspective, combining scientific knowledge with strategic communication skills. Shuva holds a BSc Honours with Distinction in Life Sciences and Biochemistry from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, and a Postgraduate degree in Advertising & Communications Management from NMIMS, Mumbai, where she topped her class and was awarded the Advertising Agencies Association of India's Raman Memorial Trophy. With her expertise in policy, strategy, and international cooperation, she plays a pivotal role in advancing CEEW's mission to address global sustainability and development challenges through research, partnerships, and advocacy.



## Siddarth Pai

CEO and Founder, Sahasranshu Technologies  
India

Siddarth Pai is a Young Leader and technologist working at the intersection of technology, public policy, and strategic affairs, with a particular interest in the Indian Ocean Region and global governance frameworks. With over eight years of experience building large-scale, mission-critical data and analytics platforms across the United States and India, Siddarth has worked in highly regulated environments spanning finance, healthcare, and global technology platforms. His work focuses on how advanced data systems, AI, and digital infrastructure can strengthen decision-making, institutional capacity, and long-term strategic planning. Siddarth actively engages with questions of maritime governance, economic security, technology sovereignty, and regional cooperation, bringing a practitioner's perspective to policy discussions. As part of a new generation of Indian professionals engaging with global strategic discourse, he is particularly interested in how emerging technologies can support collective stewardship, resilience, and stability in the Indian Ocean Region.



# DELEGATES



## Sinderpal Singh

Senior Fellow and Assistant Director  
at the Institute of Defence and  
Strategic Studies, RSIS  
Singapore

Sinderpal Singh is a Senior Fellow and Assistant Director at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, and Coordinator of both the South Asia and Regional Security Architecture Programmes at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His research focuses on South Asia's international relations, Indian foreign policy, India-Southeast Asia ties, and the geopolitics of the Indian Ocean Region. Previously, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies and a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the National University of Singapore. He is the author of *India in South Asia: Domestic Identity Politics and Foreign Policy from Nehru to the BJP* (Routledge, 2013) and editor of *Modi and the World: (Re)Constructing Indian Foreign Policy* (World Scientific, 2017). His work has appeared in *Asia Policy*, *Asian Security*, *Pacific Affairs*, and *Contemporary Southeast Asia*. He holds a PhD from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, an MA from Australian National University, and a BA from National University of Singapore.



## Sneha Ashwinkumar Trivedi

Founder/ Director, Happy Life  
Foundation  
India

Sneha A. Trivedi is a PhD scholar in International Relations and Foreign Policy, with research interests spanning strategic autonomy, Indo-Pacific geopolitics, maritime security, and India's engagement with the Global South. She is the founder and director of the Happy Life Foundation, a social-impact organization focused on public awareness, intellectual discourse, and holistic societal development through informed civic participation. She is also the host of the policy-focused podcast "Democratic Discourse," which features conversations with policymakers, scholars, and public intellectuals on contemporary national and global issues. With a strong grounding in public policy and international affairs, Sneha's work seeks to bridge academic research with real-world strategic and policy debates.



# DELEGATES



## Sreeram Chaulia

Professor and Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA)  
India

Sreeram Chaulia is a social scientist, Dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA), and a prominent commentator on international affairs. He holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Political Science and International Relations from the Maxwell School, Syracuse University, and an MSc in History of International Relations from the London School of Economics. He was a Radhakrishnan British Chevening Scholar at the University of Oxford, where he earned a B.A. in Modern History, and also holds a B.A. (Hons.) from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi. Professor Chaulia specialises in diplomacy, foreign policy, comparative politics, international political economy, international organisations, armed conflict, humanitarian issues, and contemporary history. He teaches across these areas and has authored over a thousand publications. He also hosts the television programme "Indian Diplomacy" on DD India, contributing to public discourse on global affairs.



## Sonu Trivedi

Distinguished Fellow, India Foundation  
India

Dr. Sonu Trivedi is Associate Professor, Political Science at Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi and Distinguished Fellow, India Foundation, New Delhi. She was on deputation as Director, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Seoul from Sept. 2019–March 2023. Before moving to the diplomatic assignment at Seoul, she was a Fellow at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi (April 2018–Sept 2019). She was also a Visiting Fellow at Institute of Asia Pacific Studies, CASS, Beijing (2011); Member of Myanmar Core Group at ICWA (2014); Visiting faculty at IIM, Indore (2015–16); Convenor, Southeast Asia Research Group at Department of Political Science, University of Delhi and Founder Director, Centre for Vietnam Studies, New Delhi. She was the recipient of 'Medal of Friendship' conferred by the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 2021 and Award from Embassy of Vietnam, New Delhi for her contributions in promoting relations between India and Vietnam in 2018. She has several publications to her credit, most significant being book titled 'Transition from Authoritarianism to Democracy: Comparative Study of Indonesia and Myanmar' and 'Democratisation in Myanmar: Progress and Prospects'. She has also co-edited a book with Shri Shakti Sinha titled 'Emerging Horizons in India-Vietnam Relations.'



# DELEGATES



## Srikanth Kondapalli

Former Dean, School of International Studies, JNU  
India

Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli is a Professor in Chinese Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University and former Dean of the School of International Studies (2022–24). He has also served multiple terms as Chairman of the Centre for East Asian Studies at JNU. Since August 2022, he holds the Chair of Excellence under the Ministry of Defence. Educated in Chinese studies in India and China, he holds a Ph.D. and trained in the Chinese language at Beijing Language & Culture University. He was a post-doctoral Visiting Fellow at People's University, Beijing. Prof. Kondapalli has held several international academic positions, including Visiting Professor at National Chengchi University, Taipei, and Visiting Fellow at the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, Beijing. He has also been associated as Honorary Professor and Fellow with leading universities and institutions in China and internationally, contributing significantly to scholarship on China.



## Sriparna Pathak

Professor, O.P Jindal Global University  
India

Sriparna Pathak is a Professor of China Studies, and the founding Director of the Centre for Northeast Asian Studies at O.P. Jindal Global University, (JGU) Haryana, India. She also serves in the capacity of the Associate Director of the Jindal India Institute. She teaches courses on Foreign Policy of China as well as Theories of International Relations. In 2022, she published a book titled 'Drifts and Dynamics: Russia's Ukraine War and Northeast Asia. Her previous work experience covers Universities like Gauhati University, Don Bosco University; the Ministry of External Affairs, where she worked as a Consultant for the Policy Planning and Research Division, working on China's domestic and foreign policies; think tanks like Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi and Kolkata respectively, and the Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research in New Delhi.



# DELEGATES



## Suhasini Haidar

Diplomatic Affairs Editor, The Hindu  
India

Suhasini Haidar is the Diplomatic Editor of The Hindu, one of India's most respected national dailies, where she writes extensively on foreign policy and hosts the weekly online show "WorldView with Suhasini Haidar." She previously served as Foreign Affairs Editor and prime-time anchor at CNN-IBN (2005–2014) and worked with CNN International's New Delhi bureau. Over the years, she has contributed to several books on Indian foreign policy and South Asia. In 2025, she received the Kuldip Nayyar/Nai Dunya Media Award, and earlier the Prem Bhatia and Haldighati awards for journalism. She has also won multiple awards for her television work. Suhasini began her career as an intern at CNN's United Nations bureau in New York before joining CNN New Delhi as a producer. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Lady Shri Ram College and a Master's in Broadcast Journalism from Boston University.



## Sujan R Chinoy

Director General, Manohar Parrikar  
Institute for Defence Studies and  
Analyses  
India

Amb. Sujan R. Chinoy is the Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. A career diplomat from 1981-2018, he was India's Ambassador to Japan and Mexico, and High Commissioner of India to Belize and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. A specialist on China with over two decades of hands on experience, he headed the Indian expert group dealing with the boundary dispute and confidence-building measures. During his foreign service career, he was also the deputy chief of mission in Saudi Arabia and Consul General of India in Shanghai and Sydney, besides serving in Hong Kong and Beijing. He was India's representative to the First Committee at the UN from 1992-95, dealing with disarmament and international security. On deputation to India's National Security Council Secretariat, he anchored policy issues and strategic dialogues with counterpart organisations around the world.



# DELEGATES



## Sujeet Kumar

Member of Parliament, India  
India

Sujeet Kumar is an Indian politician and legal professional, currently serving his second term as a Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) representing Odisha. An accomplished scholar, he holds an MBA from the University of Oxford and an MPA from Harvard University. Kumar's diverse career includes software engineering at Infosys, policy work with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and legal practice at the Supreme Court of India. In Parliament, he is a prominent voice on technology policy, digital governance, tribal empowerment, and international relations, and serves as the Co-Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC), advocating for strategic cooperation on global security and technology issues. He is also the author of *AI on Trial (2025)*, a critically acclaimed work that examines the legal, ethical, and societal implications of artificial intelligence, bridging the gap between law, technology, and public policy.



## Sumeer Bhasin

Founder & CEO, Anaar Group; Former  
Director  
India

Sumeer Bhasin is the founder and CEO of Anaar Global, a seasoned investment banker, and a renowned geopolitical analyst with over 30 years of global experience. He has successfully advised businesses and governments navigating complex markets and conflict-prone regions. Sumeer played a pivotal role in the takeover of CSB Bank, showcasing his strategic financial expertise. As an expert on Afghanistan and Central Asia, he has collaborated with prominent figures like U.S. diplomat Zalmay Khalilzad, actively participating in Track 1.5 diplomatic efforts. Sumeer's insights into governance, security, and economic integration are sought after by think tanks, policy forums, and international organizations. Through Anaar Global, he offers actionable strategies for stakeholders operating in volatile regions, bridging geopolitical expertise with investment advisory. His commitment to dialogue-driven conflict resolution and sustainable development defines his leadership in global policymaking and strategic consulting.



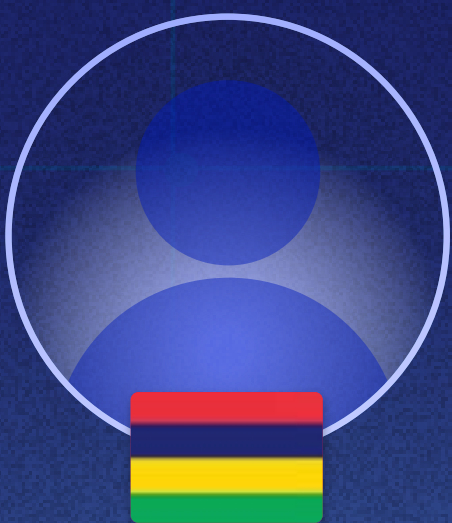
# DELEGATES



## Sumitra Karki

Director, Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement  
Nepal

Sumitra Karki works as Program Coordinator and Research Associate at Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE). She focuses on issues related to China and South Asia. She was a Faculty at Modern Kanya Multiple College, Kathmandu and holds Master's in Sociology from Tribhuvan University. She has co-edited "Human Rights and Human Security in South Asia" published by Adroit Publishers and contributes regularly at national and international dailies and journals.



## Viswarnath Virah Sawny

Deputy Commandant NCG, Mauritius  
Mauritius

Viswarnath Virah Sawny serves as Deputy Commandant of the National Coast Guard of Mauritius, supporting maritime security and coastal operations.



# DELEGATES



## Sunaina Singh

Former VC, Nalanda University  
India

Sunaina Singh is the Former Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University and one of the most prominent women leaders in higher education in the South Asian region. She has also served as the Vice President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi, playing a key role in promoting India's cultural diplomacy and international academic collaborations. Professor Singh was the first Indian woman to serve as President of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, a bi-national research organization jointly supported by India's Ministry of Human Resource Development and Canada's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with headquarters in New Delhi and Calgary. Under her leadership, the institute strengthened academic exchange, research partnerships, and cross-cultural engagement between India and Canada. With her extensive experience in academia, cultural relations, and international education, she continues to inspire and shape higher education and diplomatic initiatives in the region.



## Swayam Prakash Baral

Visiting Fellow, India Foundation  
India

Swayam Prakash Baral is a first-generation entrepreneur. A visionary whose entrepreneurial journey started at the age of 23 immediately after completing education at the prestigious University of Stirling, UK. After successfully building a career in UK, he returned to India following his compassion and commitment for motherland. He established his entrepreneurial engagements in the field of Renewable Energy, Infrastructure, IT, Public Relation, Human Resource, Agriculture and Event Management.



# DELEGATES



## Tapesh Bagati

Entrepreneur  
India

Tapesh Bagati is a dynamic serial entrepreneur with ventures spanning education, technology, and innovation. Educated in Delhi and a graduate of Delhi University, he recognized early the power of collaboration and forward-thinking ideas. He founded a successful engineering college, creating opportunities for young talent to grow in a rapidly changing world. Driven by an interest in emerging technologies, he later expanded into cybersecurity and software, focusing on digital security solutions. He has also collaborated with international retail brands, demonstrating a strong ability to build strategic partnerships and explore new markets. Beyond business, he is deeply engaged with current affairs, closely following national and global politics. His Kashmiri Pandit heritage informs his perspective on issues in the Valley, motivating his involvement in local initiatives while maintaining a broader, cosmopolitan outlook shaped by his diverse professional experiences.



## Ulupi Borah

Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Joint  
Warfare Studies (CENJOWS)  
India

Dr Ulupi Borah is a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies. She holds expertise on the Indo-Pacific, focusing on Japan's security policies, maritime security and the ecosystem of critical and emerging technologies, especially semiconductors. She earned her PhD from the Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on "Japan and the South China Sea Dispute: 2002-2016", with part of her research conducted at Niigata University, Japan. Previously an Assistant Professor at Rashtriya Raksha University, Ministry of Home Affairs, she taught Defence and Strategic Studies and curated programmes on UN peacekeeping and maritime security. An alumna of prestigious international scholarships, she was awarded the US Mission to the UN Fellowship (2023) to attend the New Issues in Security Course at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Switzerland, and was the first Indian to receive the JASSO scholarship from the Government of Japan.



# DELEGATES



## VADM Sanjay Jasjit Singh, SYSM, PVSM, AVSM, NM, PhD (Retd.)

Director General, United Service  
Institution of India (USI)  
India

Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh has held a range of command, training and staff appointments, and served on most class of ships over his four decades of service in the Indian Navy. He superannuated on 31st July 2025. A perennial student and scholar, he has contributed research papers in professional Journals, Seminars & Conferences. He was the lead drafter for the Indian Navy's Maritime Doctrine 2009, Strategic Guidance to Transformation 2014, and Indian Maritime Security Strategy 2015. He has undergone several post Graduation programmes, and holds MA (History), MA (Defence Studies), MSc (Defence Studies), MPhil (Defence Studies), MPhil (Defence & Strategic Studies), and PhD (Arts). Since 01st January 2026, he is serving as Director General of the United Service Institution, Delhi, which is India's oldest think tank on defence and security, founded in 1870.



## Vikrant Pachnanda

Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court  
of India  
India

Vikrant Pachnanda is an Advocate-on-Record in the Supreme Court of India with offices in New Delhi and Chandigarh. He is presently also a Special Public Prosecutor of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at the Delhi High Court. He is the Founder and Managing Editor of India Law Journal which is available at [www.indialawjournal.org](http://www.indialawjournal.org). He has been practicing before various forums such as the Supreme Court of India as well as various High Courts, Tribunals and District Courts across the country and both international and domestic arbitrations. An alumnus of Cornell and Leiden Universities, Vikrant's clientele include corporate houses, high net worth individuals, government departments, public sector undertakings including public sector banks as well as foreign governments. He has authored three books including two on aviation law apart from also publishing several articles in both international and national journals. Vikrant has also presented papers at both international and national conferences



# DELEGATES



## Abhishek Basu

Executive Trustee, Basu Foundation  
and Chairperson,  
Beeggonia Art Advisory  
Mauritius

Abhishek Basu is a globally recognized arts advisor, philanthropist, and cultural strategist, currently serving as Executive Trustee of the Basu Foundation and Chairperson of Beeggonia Art Advisory. He advises family offices across Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe on philanthropy and art collecting, while also working with leading museums and cultural institutions worldwide on fundraising and international partnerships. Abhishek serves on advisory boards of prestigious global art platforms and is a patron of renowned institutions including The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the State Hermitage Museum. A law graduate from Symbiosis Law College, he holds diplomas from the London School of Economics and Sotheby's Institute of Art, blending legal, diplomatic, and art market expertise.



## Saurav Chatterjee

Director & CEO, CARE Ratings (Africa)  
Private Limited  
Mauritius

Mr. Saurav Chatterjee is the Director & CEO of CARE Ratings (Africa) Private Limited, a position he has held since March 2016. A seasoned risk professional, he brings extensive experience across Indian and African markets, with prior leadership roles at CARE Ratings Limited, India, and experience in corporate banking at Standard Chartered Bank. His expertise spans financial engineering, risk assessment, and technical analysis. He has played a pivotal role in establishing and expanding the rating agency's presence in Mauritius and is well-versed in regulatory frameworks across the African Union. Known for promoting credit rating practices in Mauritius, he is committed to strengthening capital markets through transparency and global standards. He actively mentors young professionals and is passionate about education and social impact.



# DELEGATES



## Veepre Kureeman

Manager (Asia & Middle East), the  
Economic Development Board  
Mauritius

Veepre Kureeman is a seasoned professional in international trade, investment promotion, and economic development with over two decades of experience across public and private sectors. Currently serving as Manager (Asia & Middle East) at the Economic Development Board, he has held multiple strategic roles focusing on global outreach, Africa strategy, and logistics. He has a strong track record in organizing international trade missions, fostering export growth, and building cross-border business partnerships. With a BSc in Textile Technology and an EMBA, Veepre combines technical expertise with managerial acumen. Known for his results-driven approach, effective communication, and stakeholder engagement, he has contributed significantly to positioning Mauritius as a competitive sourcing and investment destination.



## Yashawardhana

Co-Founder and Growth & Strategy  
Lead at Sharstone Global

Yashawardhana is Co-Founder and Growth & Strategy Lead at Sharstone Global, a new-age consulting firm. He is also Director at Anushilan Engineering Pvt. Ltd., a fabrication and engineering company. He previously worked at India Foundation as a Research Fellow. A graduate of Jindal Global Law School (B.A. LL.B. Hons.), he has prior experience with the Parliament of India, Supreme Court of India, and various High Courts.



# DELEGATES



**Harshwardhana**

Entrepreneur

Harshwardhan is an entrepreneur working at the intersection of engineering & infrastructure. He is the Founder and Director of Anushilan Engineering Pvt. Ltd., a multidisciplinary fabrication and infrastructure firm engaged in roadways, railways, bridge construction, and shipbuilding projects, with a focus on industrial design and precision manufacturing. He also founded and directs the Anushilan Education & Research Foundation, an organization dedicated to fostering academic dialogue through conferences, literary discussions, and research initiatives exploring culture and society. Harshwardhan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Hindi Language and Literature from West Bengal State University, Kolkata.



**Radhey Tambi**

Research Associate, CAPS

Radhey Tambi is a research associate (Indo-Pacific Group) at the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS), New Delhi. Her areas of research interest include U.S. foreign policy towards Indo-Pacific region, Indo-U.S. relations, India-China-U.S. in the Indo-Pacific region, emerging trends in the Indian Foreign Policy and South Asian geopolitics and geoeconomics.

Currently, she is undertaking a research study on "Leveraging India's interest through island nations in the Indian Ocean Region" for her book proposal. She has completed her post-graduation in Geopolitics and International Relations from Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE).



# DELEGATES



## **Drishtysingh Ramdenee**

Secretary-General of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI)

Dr Drishtysingh Ramdenee is currently serving as the Secretary-General of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) since 3 July 2023. He previously held the position of Director at the Economic Development Board of Mauritius, responsible for strategic development, investments, exports, and emerging sectors. Dr Ramdenee also served as Interim CEO of the Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology and is associated with various boards and councils. With an engineering background specializing in mechanical and aerodynamic engineering, he has undertaken numerous notable projects in Canada, focusing on industrial maintenance, energy efficiency, and innovation.



## **Sanket Oswal**

Nation First Policy Research Centre  
India

Sanket Oswal is a lawyer by profession. He has closely worked with Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Railways, Textiles, Consumer Affairs and Public Food Distribution. He regularly contributes to policy discourse through research initiatives and consultations, particularly in areas such as maritime security, institutional capacity building and development oriented governance. He has also been a Chief Minister's Fellow to the former CM of Maharashtra. Outside work, he engages in building awareness and mentorship programs for the youth. Oswal is a Distinguished Toastmaster and a trained NCC Cadet under the Maharashtra Directorate. He worked as Government Associate for Finance and Partnership in G20's Youth Engagement Group - Youth 20. Oswal is also a Global Shaper with World Economic Forum.



# DELEGATES



## Aparna Malhotra

Senior Vice President of Business Development at BLS International Services Ltd.  
India

Aparna Malhotra is the Senior Vice President of Business Development at BLS International Services Ltd., a global leader in visa, passport, and citizen services. With extensive experience in strategic leadership and international operations, she plays a pivotal role in driving the company's expansion and strengthening its partnerships with governments worldwide. Malhotra is a strong advocate for women's leadership and empowerment within the corporate sector, frequently sharing insights on fostering inclusive growth. Her expertise lies in navigating complex regulatory environments and delivering tech-enabled solutions that streamline public-to-citizen services, contributing significantly to BLS International's position as a trusted global service provider.



## Moses Vilakati

Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment  
African Union

Moses Vilakati, a distinguished national of the Kingdom of Eswatini, brings over three decades of leadership and expertise in agriculture, sustainable development, environmental conservation, climate resilience, and eco-tourism. In 2025, he was elected as the African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment, where he continues to champion transformative policies across the continent. Prior to his appointment at the African Union Commission, H.E. Vilakati served for a decade as a Cabinet Minister in Eswatini, leading both the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs. His tenure was marked by the formulation and implementation of impactful national strategies. He also spearheaded critical regulatory frameworks in veterinary public health and pesticide management, ensuring consumer safety and environmental protection.



# DELEGATES



## Lisa Simrique Singh

United Nations Resident Coordinator  
for Mauritius  
UN

Ms. Lisa Simrique Singh serves as the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Mauritius, leading the UN's development coordination efforts in the country.





# **TEAM INDIA FOUNDATION**



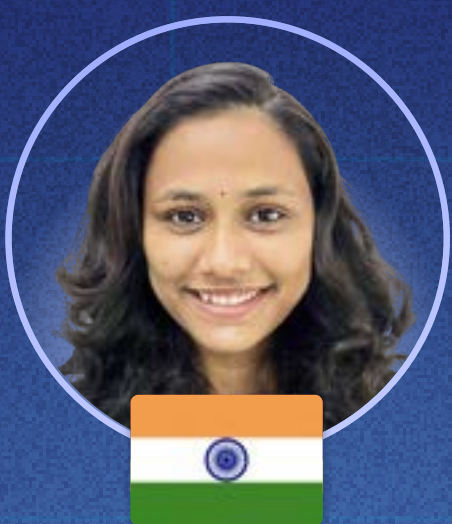
# TEAM INDIA FOUNDATION



## Deeksha Goel

Visiting Fellow  
India

Deeksha is the provost of the School of Global leadership, a state of the art institution being established by the BEST Innovation University together with India Foundation in India. Previously, Deeksha has been the deputy director of India Foundation. Trained as an engineer with expertise in strategy and financial analysis, she possesses extensive experience across a diverse portfolio of consulting and advisory services. As a scholar, Deeksha's research focuses on the geopolitics of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and the impact of development finance on economic sustainability within IOR countries. She has edited a volume on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and authored numerous papers and articles addressing globally significant contemporary issues.



## Dnyanashri Kulkarni

Research Fellow  
India

Dnyanashri Kulkarni is a Research Fellow at India Foundation and a PhD candidate at the Jindal School of International Affairs, specializing in European Studies, with a research focus on the rise of conservatism and its impact on international relations. She has previously served as a Consultant at the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), where she worked on initiatives in cultural diplomacy and global academic exchange. Dnyanashri holds a Bachelor's degree in French Literature from the University of Mumbai and is DELF-certified from Alliance Française. A former Rotary International Youth Exchange Scholar, she spent a year in France, gaining immersive cross-cultural experience and language proficiency. She recently co-edited 'Shakha to Nation: Greatest Speeches of RSS' with Dr. Ram Madhav, President, India Foundation.





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