

# *Profiles of Participants*

## ***Welcome Address***

### **AMBASSADOR SUJAN R. CHINYOY**

T20 Chair (India's G20 Presidency) &  
Director General,  
Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence  
Studies and Analyses, India



Amb Sujan R. Chinyoy is the Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi since January 2019. 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 and East Asia, he headed the India-China Expert Group of Diplomatic & Military Officials dealing with the boundary dispute and confidence-building measures. During his Foreign Service career, he served in Hong Kong, Beijing and as Consul General in Shanghai. He also served as the Consul General of India in Sydney.

He was India's representative to the First Committee at the UN dealing with disarmament and international security and later the deputy in the Indian Embassy in Riyadh. On deputation to India's National Security Council Secretariat, he anchored policy issues and strategic dialogues with counterparts around the world. He has rich experience in dealing with India's extended neighbourhood, terrorism and extremism, Indo-Pacific and maritime security, defence reforms and modernisation, infrastructure and connectivity. He is also the Indian Chair of the Think20 Engagement Group for India's G20 Presidency.

## ***Inaugural Address***

### **MR AMITABH KANT**

Sherpa, G20 India



Mr Amitabh Kant is presently G20 Sherpa of India during its Presidency year. He was CEO, NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)- the Govt of India's premier policy Think Tank & prior to that Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion. Amitabh Kant is a member of the Indian Administrative Service, IAS (Kerala Cadre: 1980 Batch).

He is the author of "Branding India – An Incredible Story" , Incredible India 2.0 and has edited The Path Ahead "Transformative Ideas for India" and has been a key driver of "Make in India", Startup India, "Incredible India" and "God's Own Country" initiatives which positioned and branded India and Kerala State as leading manufacturing tourism destinations. These campaigns have won several international awards and embraced a host of activities – infrastructure development, product enhancement, private-public partnership and positioning and branding. Till March, 2016 Amitabh Kant was posted as Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) – Government of India. He has worked as Secretary, Tourism, Kerala, Joint Secretary, Tourism, Govt of India, District Collector, Kozhikode & CEO, Delhi- Mumbai Industrial Corridor.

## ***Keynote Address***

### **AMB HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA**

Chief Coordinator for India's G20  
Presidency in 2023



Amb Harsh Vardhan Shringla is a career diplomat and a member of the Indian Foreign Service since 1984. Currently, he is the Chief Coordinator for India's G20 Presidency. He has served as the Foreign Secretary of India from January 2020 to April 2022. Prior to that he was India's Ambassador to the United States from January 2019 to January 2020.

Amb Shringla has had a long and distinguished diplomatic career spanning over 37 years, having served in various positions across six countries. He has served in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi as Joint Secretary (Director General) responsible for Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives. He has also headed the United Nations Political and SAARC Divisions in the Ministry. Earlier, he served as Director of the Northern Division dealing with Nepal and Bhutan and as Deputy Secretary of the Europe West Division.

He has published papers on conflict prevention, economic diplomacy, the Indian diaspora and India-Bangladesh relations. Amb Shringla speaks French, Vietnamese and Nepalese apart from English and Indian languages.

## ***Special Lecture***

### **MR TETSUSHI SONOBE**

Dean and CEO, Asian Development Bank  
Institute (ADBI) and Chair Think7



Mr. Tetsushi Sonobe is the Dean and CEO of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the Tokyo-based think tank of the Asian Development Bank that promotes the realization of a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific through policy research and capacity building. Dean Sonobe obtained his PhD in economics from Yale University and BA in economics from the University of Tokyo. His research interests are centered on the empirics of economic development, particularly the roles of industrial clusters, human capital, social capital, management practices, and market competition in industrial development in developing Asia and other regions. Before joining ADBI in April 2020, Dean Sonobe served for six years as a Vice President of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo and taught economics for thirty years at Tokyo Metropolitan University and GRIPS. He is a recipient of the Nikkei Book Publication Prize and the Masayoshi Ohira Memorial Prize, and a founding board member of the Japanese Association for Development Economics.

## ***Special Address***

### **AMB VIJAY K. NAMBIAR**

Principal Coordinator, C20,  
India's G20 Presidency



Amb Vijay K. Nambiar, born in Pune (1943), studied at St Xavier's College Mumbai. He was awarded the Chancellor's gold medal for his Masters in 1965. Joining India's Foreign Service in 1967, he studied Chinese and was posted to Hongkong and Beijing (1968-1972). After serving at headquarters, he was posted to Yugoslavia (1976-78) and the UN, New York (1979-82). His first Ambassadorial posting was to Algiers (1985-88), followed by Afghanistan (1990-92), Malaysia (1993-96), China (1996-2000) and Pakistan (2000-01). He was also Permanent Representative at India's UN Mission in New York. After retirement in 2004, he served as Deputy National Security Adviser until 2006 when he was seconded to the UN as Special Adviser to UNSG Kofi Annan. He was later Chef de Cabinet to UNSG Ban Ki Moon and his Adviser on Myanmar. He returned to India in 2017 and is now settled in Greater Noida.

## **AMB RAJIV BHATIA**

Distinguished Fellow,  
Foreign Policy Studies Programme,  
Gateway House, India



Amb Rajiv Bhatia is Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies Programme at Gateway House. He is a member of CII's International Advisory Council, Trade Policy Council and Africa Committee. He is the Chair of FICCI's Task Force on Blue Economy, and served as Chair of Core Group of Experts on BIMSTEC. He is a founding member of the Kalinga International Foundation and a member of the governing council of Asian Confluence. As Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) from 2012-15, he played a key role in strengthening India's Track-II research and outreach activities.

During a 37-year innings in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), he served as Ambassador to Myanmar and Mexico and as High Commissioner to Kenya, South Africa and Lesotho. A prolific columnist, he is also a regular speaker on foreign policy and diplomacy in India and abroad. He has authored three books "India in Global Affairs: Perspectives from Sapru House", "India-Myanmar Relations: Changing contours" and India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons. His expertise covers a wide range of topics, such as the Indo-Pacific, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, Multilateral Groupings, Indian Foreign Policy and Diplomacy, and major power relations.

## **DR SANDHYA PURECHA**

Chair, W20 in India's G20 Presidency



Dr Sandhya Purecha, Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee is a renowned Performing Academician, Bharatanatyam Guru, Performing Artist, Innovator-Choreographer, Prolific Writer and an Avowed Scholar - Researcher of Sanskrit vis-à-vis Indian classical dance. She is the Managing Trustee & Secretary of Sarfojiraje Bhosale B.N.T. & R. Centre, the Founder-Principal of the pioneering Bharata College of Fine Arts & Culture and Artistic Director of Kala Paricchaya, Mumbai.

Dr Purecha is an internationally renowned scholar and performer of Bharatanatyam, having authored seven research-based books and given innovative presentations of shastra and sampradaya, including performing all the 324 verses of the Abhinaya Darpanam in an audio-visual form. An authority on classical dance and Sanskrit, she is affiliated to several universities. She has been invited as a scholar to universities and for international seminars, conferences like International Conference on Natyashastra, IGNCA- Varanasi to name a few and has delivered illustrative talks on dance to a diversified audience. She has received several awards including the National Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Overall Contribution 2017 by Sangeet Natak Akademi, Govt. Of India, Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar, Babasaheb Ambedkar Award to name a few.

## **AMB ABHAY THAKUR**

Additional Secretary & Sous-Sherpa G20



Amb Abhay Thakur is an engineering post-graduate. He worked with Hindustan Lever Ltd. briefly before joining the Indian Foreign Service in 1992. He has served in various capacities in the Indian Missions abroad in Moscow (1992-94 & 2005-08), London (1998-2001), Tel Aviv (2001-2005), Ho Chi Minh City (2010-13) and as High Commissioner of India to Mauritius (2016-19) and High Commissioner of India to Nigeria (with concurrent accreditation to Benin, Chad and ECOWAS Commission (2019-2021). At the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, he worked as Director in External Affairs Minister's Office (2008-10) and also as Joint Secretary (North) (2013-16). He assumed charge as Additional Secretary, in charge of G20, in December 2021.

## **PROF HARSH V. PANT**

ORF,

Co-Chair of T20 Task Force 7

'Towards Reformed Multilateralism'



Prof Harsh V. Pant is Vice President – Studies and Foreign Policy at Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi. He is a Professor of International Relations with King's India Institute at King's College London. He is also Director (Honorary) of Delhi School of Transnational Affairs at Delhi University.

Prof Pant has been a Visiting Professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore; a Visiting Professor at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; a Visiting Fellow at the Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania; a Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Peace and Security Studies, McGill University; a Non-Resident Fellow with the Wadhwani Chair in US-India Policy Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC; and an Emerging Leaders Fellow at the Australia-India Institute, University of Melbourne.

Prof Pant's current research is focused on Asian security issues. His most recent books include *India and Global Governance: A Rising Power and Its Discontents* (Routledge) and, *Politics and Geopolitics: Decoding India's Neighbourhood Challenge* (Rupa) amongst others. Prof Pant writes regularly for various Indian and international media outlets including the Japan Times, the Wall Street Journal, the National (UAE), the Hindustan Times, and the Telegraph.

## **MR ROHAN JAITLEY**

Member of Core Group T20



Mr Rohan Jaitley is a lawyer based in Delhi. Over the years, he has gained considerable experience in handling matters in the realm of commercial laws, intellectual property rights, constitution laws, regulatory laws and arbitration. He frequently appears before the Supreme Court of India, High Courts, National Company Law Tribunals, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, National Green Tribunal and Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal. Additionally, he represents the Union of India before the Supreme Court of India. Prior to starting his independent practice, Shri Jaitley worked with the legal stalwarts like Mr. Neeraj Kishal Kaul and Mr. Maninder Singh. Lately, he has assumed the role of President of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA). Besides being deeply devoted to public service, Shri Jaitley spearheads the charitable and welfare initiatives of the Arun Jaitley Foundation. He has been recently conferred the Capital Foundation Young Achiever Award in recognition of his exemplary leadership skills.

## **Ms SUNAINA KUMAR**

Executive Director,  
T20 Secretariat India



Ms Sunaina Kumar is a Senior Fellow at Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi, India where she works on gender and sustainable development. She is Executive Director at Think20 India Secretariat. She has been a journalist and worked as a senior editor with the *Indian Express* and *Open Magazine*. She has contributed news features to *The Guardian*, *BBC*, *Der Spiegel*, *Al Jazeera*, among others. Her journalistic work has been supported by grants from the European Journalism Centre, Dart Center at Columbia University, and the Robert Bosch Foundation. She has written on India's foreign policy for the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). She is a founding member of the Indo-German Media Network and a member of the Steering Committee of the Australia India Youth Dialogue.

## **Chair**

### **PROF MAHENDRA P. LAMA**

Development Economist,  
Former Senior Professor,  
School of International Studies, JNU,  
India



Prof Mahendra P. Lama (b 1961), a development economist, has been a senior Professor in the School of International Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He served various High-Level Committees set up by SAARC Summit leaders as Government of India's nominee including as a member of the Independent Expert Group (1997-1999) and coveted South Asia Forum (2010-2014).

He is presently Chief Economic Adviser in the rank of a cabinet minister in the Government of Sikkim. He has served in various capacities across universities. Till recently he was Government of India's nominee in the Eminent Persons Group set up by the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal. His recent work includes *Oh Darjeeling! Sima wariparika pariwesh ra manthan* (in Nepali); amongst others. He has been associated as a professional with the World Bank, USAID and other international organisations. He has also been a member of the prestigious Interview Board for the all India Civil Services Examinations conducted by UPSC. He has been in the jury of Sahitya Akademy Award, National Fellows Selection Committee of the Ministry of Culture and, served various national Committees of GOI & UGC including the Chairman of Area Studies Programme.

## **DR SHARMIND NEELORMI**

Professor,  
Department of Economics,  
University of Jahangirnagar



Dr Sharmind Neelormi is a Professor in the Department of Economics, at Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Her research interests encompass climate change, development, livelihoods, and gender. She has been involved in the climate change negotiations at UNFCCC process for a long time. Further, has been engaged in SDG Expert Group Assessment process. She has worked with different reputed international organizations and published widely. She also served in the Green Climate Fund and is a contributor to 5<sup>th</sup> IPCC Assessment Report.

## **MR DIL BAHADUR RAHUT**

Senior Research Fellow,  
Asian Development Bank Institute



Mr Dil Rahut is Vice Chair and Senior Fellow at Asian Development Bank Institute. He was a Senior Global Program Manager and Visiting Research Fellow for the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre. He is the Co-Chair of T07 Japan (Theme: Development and Economic Prosperity). He previously worked for the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan's Research and Statistics Department.

Mr. Rahut has also served as a research fellow at the World Fish Centre; senior fellow and Japan chair at the Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations; chief of research, planning, and monitoring and Visa/Mastercard director at the Bank of Bhutan Ltd; and assistant professor of development economics at South Asian University. He has a Ph.D. in development economics from the University of Bonn's Center for Development Research, a master's degree in economic policy management from the University of Tsukuba, an MBA, and a Bachelor of Science degree from India. He has over 150 publications in Scopus-indexed journals focusing on development.

## **MR ANUSHKA WIJESINHA**

Economist and International Consultant  
Co-Founder/CEO, Centre for a Smart  
Future  
Sri Lanka



Anushka Wijesinha is a Sri Lankan economist who has worked in Government, private sector and think tanks. He worked with international organizations across South and South-East Asia advising governments on their strategies for economic competitiveness. Currently he is working with the International Trade Centre (Geneva) on projects in Pakistan and Iran, and previously in Myanmar and Maldives.

Anushka is the Co-Founder/CEO of a public policy think tank, Centre for a Smart Future, based in Colombo. In the private sector, he is a non-executive director of three leading financial services companies and chairs the Investment Committee of a high net-worth family office. Previously, Anushka held a senior government position, as Advisor to the Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade. He led policy reforms on export competitiveness, export-oriented investment attraction, and innovation. He has served on the Monetary Policy Consultative Committee of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and now serves on its Stakeholder Engagement Committee. He has been a consultant to the World Bank, ADB, and UNCTAD. Anushka was a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Innovation Ecosystems and was an Asia Foundation Development Fellow at the Korea Development Institute in Seoul. Anushka holds a Masters in Economics from University of Leeds, BSc in Economics from University College London, and is an alumnus of the Harvard Kennedy School's 'Leading Economic Growth' executive programme.

## **DR ZAW NAING**

Managing Director, Mandalay  
Technology, Myanmar



Dr. Zaw Naing is the Managing Director of Mandalay Technology in Myanmar. He is experienced as a Consultant for the Global Information and Communication Technology Department at World Bank. Dr. Naing is a member of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and the Academy of Human Resource Development (AHRD). He is involved in various professional and industrial associations and organizations like Myanmar Computer Professionals Association (MCPA), Myanmar Business Executives (MBE) Association, Myanmar Oil and Gas Services Society (MOGSS) and Myanmar Engineering Society (MES).

Dr. Zaw Naing took part in many National projects as a consultant like in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development, National Export Strategy (2020-2025) with International Trade Center (ITC). He has also been engaged as a collaborator on a few NASA funded research projects such as 'Urbanization and Sustainability under Global Change and Transitional Economies: Synthesis from Southeast, East and North Asia (SENA)', 'Divergent Local Responses to Globalization: Urbanization, Land Transition, and Environmental Changes in Southeast Asia'. He is the Coordinating Board Member of the Green Economy Green Growth (GEGG) Association which is hosting the ASEAN Institute of Green Economy (AIGE) and a Governing Council Member of Future Earth. He is also the Founder and General Secretary of Zanaka Education Foundation. Dr. Naing is a Registered Engineer at the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEO) and Associate Fellow at ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology.

## Chair

### DR UTTAM KUMAR SINHA

Senior Fellow, MP-IDSA,  
Co-Chair of T20 Task Force 6 on  
'Accelerating SDGs'



Dr Sinha is a leading scholar and commentator on transboundary rivers, climate change and the Arctic. After a brief stint in the print media and a doctoral degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, he joined the MP-IDSA in 2001. He is also the Managing Editor of *Strategic Analysis* published by Routledge.

He is a recipient of many fellowships and leadership programmes including senior fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (2018-2020); US-South Asia Leader Engagement Programme at the Harvard Kennedy School (2015); Chevening 'Gurukul' leadership at the London School of Economics and Political Science (2008) and a visiting fellow at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (2006). His recently published work is *Indus Basin Interrupted: A History of Territory and Politics from Alexander to Nehru* (Penguin, 2021). His other works include the *Riverine Neighbourhood: Hydro-politics in South Asia* (Pentagon Press, 2016) and *Climate Change Narratives: Reading the Arctic* (2014). His edited and co-edited volumes include *MODI 2.0: A Resolve To Secure India*; *The Modi Doctrine: New Paradigms in India's Foreign Policy* among others.

## **DR AJAYA DIXIT**

PRI, Nepal,

Adviser, Institute for Social and  
Environmental Transition & Policy  
Research Institute, Nepal



Ajaya Dixit's current work focuses on looking at challenges of building resilience across boundaries and at sub national scales. He has studied and written extensively on water resources, trans-boundary water cooperation, flood management, wash services and climate change adaptation. He continues to pursue study of these themes. Since 2020 he has been curating, South Asia Nadi Sambad (SOANAS), a digital platform aimed at promoting dialogues on water challenges across disciplines and geographies. Presently, he is senior advisor at Institute of Social and Environmental Transition (ISET) Nepal and a visiting Professor at Kathmandu School of Law.

## **Ms Ngu Wah Win**

Research Fellow,  
Knowledge Circle Foundation,  
Myanmar



Ms Ngu Wah Win is Research Fellow at the Knowledge Circle Foundation, a non-profit charity organization dedicated to inclusive development of migrant children in Southeast Asia. Prior to joining the KCF, Ngu Wah served as a technical consultant in many reform initiatives of Myanmar, including public financial management and tax reforms, agriculture value chains development, labor market and migration governance, and housing and urban planning initiatives. In 2015, she worked for the Advisory Group of the National Disaster Management Committee, which produced a comprehensive damage and loss assessment jointly undertaken with the World Bank and several government ministries following the deadliest floods in Myanmar.

Ngu Wah served as a member of National Statistical Committee, Agriculture Policy Unit and other inter-ministerial taskforce tasked with conducting policy analysis and research studies for the government till 2020. She holds the Master of Public Administration on Economic Policy Management from Columbia University specializing on finance and banking as well as master degrees on economics and statistics from Chiang Mai University and Yangon University of Economics. She is presently a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Economics, Chiang Mai University, specializing on research issues migration, agriculture economics and political economy.

## **DR RAMANI GUNATILAKA**

Independent Consultant,  
Sri Lanka



Dr Ramani Gunatilaka is an independent consultant specializing in the analysis of labour markets, income distribution, and subjective well-being in Sri Lanka and the region. Her recent work focused on the labour market implications of Sri Lanka's multiple crises; the demand for women workers; Sri Lanka's care economy, and the migration and distribution of consumption in fishing communities in Cambodia, India, and Sri Lanka. She is currently researching the impact of Sri Lanka's multiple crises on home-based workers and on micro, small and medium enterprises.

## **Ms AISHATH SHINA**

Acting Director of Local and  
International Relations at Islamic  
University, Maldives



Ms Aishath Shina is the Acting Director of Local and International Relations at Islamic University of Maldives. She has been a faculty member there since 2015. She completed her Master's degree in Educational Management at University of Malaya. Apart from her professional work she has contributed voluntarily to the social welfare of the country. She has served in the executive committee of Girl Guide Association of Maldives for nearly 6 years and holds the post of Commissioner for Little Maids. She was also a former member of Academic Senate at Villa College. Teaching has been her passion and she has conducted Professional Development workshops for teachers in different schools in the capital as well as in various islands in the Maldives. She takes interest in research work and has published two articles in peer reviewed journals. Ms. Aishath is a PhD student at University Brunei Darussalam. She has completed her PhD Viva successfully and is waiting for the graduation.

## ***Chair***

**DR P. K. ANAND**

Visiting Fellow, RIS,  
India



Dr P. K. Anand is Visiting Fellow at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), since completion of stint at the NITI Aayog the think-tank of Government of India and successor to Planning Commission. There he was the lead for SDGs, Development Monitoring & Evaluation, Plan Appraisal and also handled International Cooperation, G-20, Industry, etc. Equipped with PhD in Economics; and M.Sc. in Physics, and in Economics, he is a Fellow, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. As a member of the Indian Administrative Service he served in ministries of textiles, defence, and rural development of Government of India; and headed at the district and divisional levels besides handling Co-operative and Public Sector units and serving in education and industry departments in Government of Rajasthan. At RIS, he is currently handling the work streams related to Localisation of SDGs and Indices, progress, implementation, monitoring & evaluation of SDGs; Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for SDGs; South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation on SDGs; Sustainable Agriculture, Food & Nutrition security and Water. Dr. Anand has several publications to his credit.

## **MR BHARAT LAL**

Director General,  
National Centre for Good Governance,  
India



Mr. Bharat Lal, born in 1962 is a Gold Medalist in graduate examination of University of Allahabad, completed post-graduation in Biochemistry followed by research work at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He was selected for Commonwealth fellowship to carry out research work in the United Kingdom. He also received Junior Research Fellowship from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). He also qualified UGC-CSIR NET examination and received Senior Research Fellowship from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Government of India. He joined Civil Service in July, 1988 and received training at LBSNAA, Mussoorie and IGNFA, Dehradun.

In September, 2022, he was appointed Director General, National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG). Prior to joining NCGG, he was working as Secretary, Lokpal of India. Prior to this, he worked as founder Mission Director of 'Jal Jeevan Mission'. Since very early in his career, he started working on water conservation, eco-restoration of degraded lands and poverty elimination. For a very long period, he has worked in drinking water and sanitation sector, both at Government of India and in the state of Gujarat. He has the privilege of working with Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi since 2001, when he became Chief Minister of Gujarat. Since March 2020, he also worked in the core team formed by the Government of India to manage Covid-19 pandemic caused by Corona virus in the country.

## **MR DINANATH BHANDARI**

Specialist,  
Early Warning System for Disaster  
Reduction,  
Institute of Forestry, Nepal



Mr Dinanath Bhandari holds Master of Science in Forestry degree from Institute of Forestry of Tribhuvan University, Nepal in 2003. His recent work for the last 17 years has been in research, project development and implementation, and evidence-based policy advocacy to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development planning. He worked in Practical Action from 2005 to 2018 and contributed to establish and institutionalize flood early warning system in Nepal. During his affiliation with Oxford Policy Management Ltd from 2019 to 2022 he helped government of Nepal, NDRRMA in particular, to develop policies and guidelines on disaster risk reduction. Dinanath is Technical Advisor to the Disaster Preparedness Network (DPNet Nepal).

## **PROF G M TAREKUL ISLAM**

Professor

Institute of Water and Flood  
Management (IWFM),  
University of Engineering and  
Technology (BUET), Bangladesh



Dr G M Tarekul Islam is a Professor at the Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM) of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). He graduated in Civil Engineering in 1994 and did his Master's in Water Resources Engineering in 1996 from BUET. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo. He was a recipient of the prestigious JSPS fellowship to pursue post-doctoral research at Hiroshima University, Japan during 2006-2008.

He was a Visiting Professor at the Department of Disaster Risk Management and Sustainable Development of Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia in 2011; and Governance of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands in 2016. He was a part-time faculty at several universities including Institute of Disaster Management. He has served as a Member of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Water and Flood Management of BUET, Governing Board of Bangladesh National Scientific and Technical Documentation Center (BANSDOC) amongst several more. Currently, he is also serving as a Member of the Board of Governors of IDMVS of Dhaka University since 2016. He was awarded by the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh as the best researcher in Engineering and Technology category in 2003. He has taken part in 25 research projects, supervised over 35 thesis works, and rendered many advisory services to nationally important projects of different government and NGOs, and published over 145 papers.

## **DR MANEESHA VINODINI RAMESH**

Provost of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham,  
Dean of International Programs and  
UNESCO Chair on Experiential Learning  
for Sustainable Innovation and  
Development, India



Dr Maneesha has done pioneering work in the area of Climate Action (SDG 13) with respect to landslide disaster management, disaster resilience including flood evacuation. Her work has encompassed the OceanNet project which addresses the marine internet challenges faced by the fishing populace along the southern coast of India. Her work on Clean water and Sanitation (SDG 6), included 'Jivamritam', a purified clean drinking water initiative, found solutions in more than 5,000 Indian villages to provide clean drinking water to over 10 million people. She is an inventor of low power wireless Remote ECG wearable devices and invented a revolutionary new communication network for fishermen, that can be used by them, upto a distance of 120 KM when at sea.

Over 2019 to 2021, Stanford University, USA has ranked Dr. Maneesha, as one among the global top 2% scientists in the Networking & Telecommunication field, for the quality of her research. She has combined interdisciplinary domains of internet of things, meteorology, hydrology, geology and data science to build world's first AI integrated IoT based landslide early warning system.

## **MR KRISHNA S. VATSA**

Member,  
National Disaster Management Authority  
India



Krishna S. Vatsa has worked in the area of disaster risk reduction and recovery for the last 25 years.

Prior to joining as Member, NDMA, Krishna S. Vatsa worked as Policy Advisor, Disaster Recovery, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), UNDP in New York and Nairobi during 2015-20. He served as the Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor, South & South- West Asia in New Delhi from 2008 to 2014. He joined UNDP in 2007 as Early Recovery Coordinator in the Philippines.

As a career civil servant, Krishna S. Vatsa joined the Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation Programme in the state of Maharashtra in 1995, and implemented a large-scale earthquake recovery programme during the next four years. He has also served as Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra, Relief and Rehabilitation from 2003 to 2006, and then as Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj from 2006 to 2007. In course of his career, he extensively consulted for several national and international organizations in the area of disaster risk reduction and recovery. Krishna S. Vatsa has a Doctor of Science in Disaster Risk Management from the George Washington University, Washington, DC and published extensively on the subject.

## **Ms SONAM CHODEN**

Regional Technical Expert for Asia,  
Scientific and Technical Review Panel  
(2023-2025) of the Ramsar Convention  
Bhutan



Ms. Sonam Choden is currently the Regional Technical Expert for Asia of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (2023-2025) of the Ramsar Convention. She provides scientific and technical guidance to the Ramsar Contracting Parties, the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee, the Ramsar Secretariat and to other wetland users working on wetlands issues, in order to foster the implementation of the Convention.

She is passionate about ecosystem-based conservation and continues to advocate for systems thinking in sustainable landscape management. After graduating from Yale School of Environment in 2014, she has been influential in policy changes and managing the natural resources in Asia. She has almost two decades of hands-on experiences and continues to work on interdisciplinary projects with multidisciplinary partners dealing with mitigation and adaptation to climate change through the food, energy and water nexus.

## ***Chair***

### **DR NISHA TANEJA**

Professor, ICRIER, Co-Chair of T20 Task Force 7 'Towards Reformed Multilaterlism'



Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi, a leading think tank in India engaged in policy-oriented research. Currently member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Trade and Investment 2023-2024. Earlier term at World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Trade and Investment – 2020-2022 focusing on trade and gender. Focus of research on India's international economic policy and guiding reforms in trade, trade facilitation, transport, and logistics. Extensive experience on regional trade in South Asia and East Asia on issues related to tariffs, sensitive lists, services, investment, non-tariff measures, and trade and transport facilitation. Several ongoing projects on trade and gender. International Consultant with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank and Project Lead International Consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. Served on various committees set up by the Government of India, and appointed advisor to the Government of Nepal on transshipment. Published several research papers and books which have been disseminated in India and abroad at various policy, business and academic forums.

## **PROF SAROJ KUMAR MOHANTY**

Professor, RIS, Co-Chair of T20 Task Force 1 'Macroeconomics, Trade, and Livelihoods'



Professor Saroj Kumar Mohanty is serving at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi based think-tank, supported by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. He has been working on issues relating to trade and Development.

Recently, he was part of the committees to prepare South Asia Development Cooperation Report for the SACEPS. He has been associated with research on issues related to regional trade, tariff, manufacturing sector, employment, trade in services, investment, etc. in South Asia. He has directed and coordinated number of cross-country studies relating to bilateral and regional FTAs, Global Value Chain, implications of Mega regionals on excluded countries and food processing industries in Asia. At present, he is leading India's Focal Pont for the IORA academic group.

Previously, he was teaching in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has published several papers in both national and international journals. He has number of books to his credit. He has long association with number of multilateral organisations including Asian Development Bank, UN-ESCAP, UNDP, FAO, European Commission, Common Wealth Secretariat, SAARC Secretariat, etc.

## **DR GANESHAN WIGNARAJA**

Senior Research Associate,  
ODI Global, London



Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja is Professorial Fellow in Economics and Trade at Gateway House in Mumbai and Senior Research Associate at ODI Global in London. He is a member of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka's Stakeholder Engagement Committee on monetary policy and financial stability. Previously, he held senior roles in the UK and Asia, including Director of Research at the ADB Institute, Executive Director of Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry's think tank, Visiting Scholar at the IMF, and Global Head of Trade and Competitiveness at Maxwell Stamp PLC. He has published extensively on trade and development and has a DPhil in economics from Oxford University.

## **DR SHANKAR P. SHARMA**

Economist & Ambassador of Nepal to  
India



Dr Shankar P. Sharma is the Ambassador of Nepal to India, and formerly the Ambassador to the United States. He was the Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission, Nepal during 2002-2006. Before joining the NPC as a Member in 1997, he worked as a Senior Economic Advisor, at the Ministry of Finance Nepal; a Senior Economist at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore; and a Fellow at the East-West Center, Hawaii. He also served as a Professor of Economics at the Centre for Economic Development and Administration, Tribhuvan University. Dr. Sharma has published eight books (edited or authored) on the economy, energy, and the environment of the Asia-Pacific region including Nepal. He has also served as an editor of the ASEAN Economic Bulletin and a consultant editor to Hydrocarbon Asia both published from Singapore.

## **MR ZAW Oo**

Executive Director  
Center for Economic and Social  
Development, Myanmar



Mr Zaw Oo is Executive Director of the Center for Economic and Social Development, an independent think-tank dedicated to inclusive development in Myanmar. As a principal economic advisor to President Thein Sein from 2012 to 2016, he took a leading role in implementing comprehensive economic reforms in Myanmar and achieving many important results including successful debt relief by the Paris Club in 2013 as chief negotiator, accelerated certification of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative in energy and mining sector reforms as the first national coordinator of Myanmar EITI from 2012 to 2017, and effective implementation of national minimum wage in 2015 for the first time since the law was introduced in 1950. He holds graduate degrees in international development, banking, and finance from the School of International and Public Affairs in Columbia University and the School of International Service from American University. He also received executive training certificates from Harvard University, Oxford University and Turin University on public finance, energy and labor economics.

## **DR MAHFUZ KABIR**

Research Director,  
BIISS, Bangladesh



Economist by training and profession, Dr Mahfuz Kabir is currently Research Director at Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), Dhaka. He holds PhD in Economics from School of Economics and Finance, Curtin University, Australia. His areas of research interest include trade and investment, regional integration in SAARC and BIMSTEC, Bangladesh-India relations, macroeconomic issues, disaster and risk management, climate change, renewable energy, budget, social protection, time series and panel data econometrics, stochastic frontier analysis, partial and computable general equilibrium modeling. He has published extensively from home and abroad that include World Bank, UNDP, Elsevier and Routledge.

## **AMB MUKTESH K. PARDESHI**

Officer on Special Duty  
G20 Secretariat, India



Ambassador Muktesh K. Pardeshi is currently Officer on Special Duty (in the rank of Secretary) in India's G20 Secretariat since July 2022. He is a career diplomat who joined Indian Foreign Service in 1991. Earlier, during July 2019-July 2022, he served as the High Commissioner of India to New Zealand. He was also concurrently accredited as High Commissioner of India to Samoa, Niue, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands. During his tenure, the ambitious Chancery complex in Wellington was completed.

He was Ambassador of India to Mexico from April 2016 to June 2019. He also concurrently served as High Commissioner to Belize. He was named *Ambassador of the Year* 2018 for his contributions by Mexican diplomatic journal *El Mundo Internacional*.

At Headquarters, Amb Pardeshi was Joint Secretary (Passport Seva Project) and Chief Passport Officer of India during 2010-16. As the Mission Leader of Passport Seva Project, he received numerous awards, including the prestigious National Award on e-Governance (Gold) 2014-15 and Web Ratna (Platinum) Award 2014. During 2010-16, he also served on the Board of Directors of the Security Printing and Minting Cooperation of India Limited (SPMCIL).

## **Ms EENAM GAMBHIR**

Joint Secretary, G20 Secretariat  
Ministry of External Affairs  
India



Ms Eenam Gambhir, a 2005 batch Indian Foreign Service Officer, is currently Joint Secretary in the G20 Division of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi as part of the G20 Substantive Secretariat for India's G20 Presidency. She is currently the Co-Chair for the G20 Development Working Group from India. Besides that she is part of the Sherpa team looking after the planning and execution of India's G20 Presidency. In her role as Joint Secretary, she is also representing India's Sherpa in various working groups and Engagement Groups.

Prior to G20 Division, she worked as Director (Multilateral Economic Relations), where she handled G20, BRICS and G7 related issues. Earlier, she served as a senior adviser on Peace and Security issues in the Office of the President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly at the UN HQ in New York. Ms Gambhir has also served in Indian Embassies in Latin American Countries such as Mexico and Argentina. Ms Gambhir has dealt with issues relating to India's neighbourhood especially Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran in different capacities while working in New Delhi from 2011 till 2016. She also served in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York and covered political and peace and security issues till June 2016. Ms Gambhir also worked on UN economic and social issues during her probation time in New Delhi in 2007. Ms Gambhir holds two Masters Degrees; namely Masters of Sciences in Mathematics from Delhi University and Masters in Advanced International Security from the University of Geneva. Ms Gambhir is fluent in Hindi, English and Spanish and writes poetry in all three languages.

## **MAJ GEN M. A. JALEEL (RETD.)**

Former Defence Minister and Former  
CDF, Maldives



Maj Gen M.A. Jaleel (Retd) was the Minister of Defence of Maldives. He also served as Maldives' High Commissioner to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Chief of Defence Force (CDF), MNDF from 18 Nov 2008 to 9 Feb 2012. Prior to his appointment as CDF the General served as the Vice Chief of Defence Force, Commanding General of the Rapid Reaction Force, Commanding Officer of the Quick Reaction Force 1, Quick Reaction Force 2 & Quick Reaction Force 3, Commanding Officer of the Special Protection Group, Commanding Officer of the Maldives National Cadet Corps and as the Director General of the Coast Guard.

Maj Gen Jaleel (Retd) is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Cadet School, Singapore Armed Forces Training Institute, Singapore. As a Royal Marine Commando, he has the distinction of been trained at UK, USA and Indian Military Institutes. Additionally, he has a degree of Master of Science and Master of Philosophy in Defence and Strategic Studies from the University of Madras, India.

Maj Gen Jaleel (Retd) was awarded the Huravee Ran Medal (the highest gallantry award) and the Jihaadhuge Rai Medal (Purple Heart) for gallantry in the Operation of the 3 November Armed Aggression in 1988. He is also the recipient of the Raeesuljumhooriyaage Medal, Mathiveri Khidhumathuge Medal for his exemplary leadership, distinguished service and significant contributions.

## **MR SUNIL KC**

Founder and CEO of the Asian Institute  
of Diplomacy and International Affairs



Mr Sunil KC is the Founder and CEO of the Asian Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs (AIDIA), one of the most influential think tanks of Nepal. Under his leadership and guidance, the organization has been able to contribute to Nepal's foreign policy and diplomacy strategically as well as economically. He is the Vice President of Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NICCI), Advisor at Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FNCCI), Advisor at the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) and Think Tank Member at Nepal Intermodal Transport Development Board at Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal. He curates various platforms for global interaction like The Himalaya's Forum, annual flagship platform on geo-politics and geo-economics. He is the Co-Chair of Nepal-Bangladesh Business Forum (NBBF), Nepal Foreign Policy Conference (NFPC), and Nepal India Think Tank Summit (NITTS).

## **AMB BERNARD GOONETILLEKE**

Chairman,  
Pathfinder Foundation,  
Sri Lanka



Amb Bernard Goonetilleke spent nearly four decades as an officer of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service. Following his retirement in 2008, he was appointed Chairman of Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (SLITHM) and later Chairman of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) and Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB). His career as a Foreign Service officer began in 1970 and included postings to Sri Lanka diplomatic missions in Kuala Lumpur and New York among others. He held several positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs including the post of Director General (Multilateral Affairs). During his career, he served as Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN in Geneva (1992-1997), during which period he was concurrently accredited to the Holy See and as Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in Vienna. Later he served as Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China and several other countries. He also served as Acting Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN in New York and as Ambassador to the USA. Following the signing of the Ceasefire Agreement between the Government and the Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2002, he was instrumental in establishing the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP), which he headed until 2004, during which period he functioned as one of the four members of the government negotiating team with the LTTE. Since May 2010, he functions as Chairman, Pathfinder Foundation. He also functions as a Director of several companies associated with the MMBLpathfinder Group of Companies.

## **DR ASHOK BEHURIA**

Senior Fellow &

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Dr Ashok K.Behuria is a Fellow and Coordinator of the South Asia Centre at MP-IDSA. He is a Ph.D in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. He has worked on “India-Pakistan Relationship During the Eighties” for his Ph.D. He joined IDSA in 2003 and before that he worked as Assistant Director at the International Centre for Peace Studies, New Delhi. Dr.Behuria has also been Editor of International Studies, the prestigious research journal from Jawaharlal Nehru University, and has been in the Editorial Boards of Journal of Peace Studies and Strategic Analysis, the flagship journal from IDSA. He has taught at the University of Delhi and JamiaMillialIslamia, New Delhi. He is a close observer of developments in South Asia and has been awarded the prestigious K Subrahmanyam Award for excellence in strategic studies for his work on Pakistan in 2009. He has published many research articles on strategic issues related to Pakistan, India-Pakistan relations, Sri Lanka, Nepal and South Asian security environment in Indian and foreign journals. He has edited several books on South Asia and continues with his research on internal politics in Pakistan, evolving strategic scenario in the Pak-Af region, radicalisation of religious discourse in the region, India’s engagement with the neighbourhood, regional security, and inter-state cooperation.

## **DR GULBIN SULTANA**

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Dr Gulbin Sultana is an Associate Fellow with the South Asia Centre in the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi. Her area of research in the institute includes Sri Lanka and the Maldives. She has written extensively on the politico-economic and foreign policy developments of these two countries. Additionally, Dr Sultana takes interest in the study of small island states particularly in the Indian Ocean Region and also issues pertaining to maritime security. She has done her MPhil on “India’s Naval Support to Sri Lanka and the Maldives” from the South Asian Studies Division of School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She was awarded a PhD degree too by the same university. Her doctoral thesis was on “Sri Lanka’s Maritime Security: A Study of Military and Non-military Responses.” Before joining MP-IDSA, she worked with the National Maritime Foundation and the United Service Institution of India in New Delhi.

## **Ms MAYURI BANERJEE**

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Mayuri Banerjee is a Research Analyst with the East Asia Centre at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi. Her research focus is on India-China relations. She primarily looks at the role of memory and trust in India-China relations after the 1962 war and Indian media perception of China. Ms. Banerjee completed her M.Phil. from Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and her dissertation was on "The Politics of Perception: Exploring Memory In India-China Relations in Post-1962 Period". Currently, she is pursuing PhD at the Department of International Relations at Jadavpur University, Kolkata. Her doctoral thesis deals with "Remembering 1962 war: War Memory and Trust-Deficit in India-China Relations". Her prior professional experience include working as a Research Assistant at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), Kolkata. At ORF, she worked on Indian Regional Media's Perception of China. She has also worked as a Guest Lecturer in Basanti Devi College, Kolkata, and also at the Lincoln University College, Malaysia, virtually. She received the Indu Bhushan Putatunda and Shanti Shudha Putatunda Memorial Award in 2013 from Jadavpur Alumni Association and Certificate of Merit in Political Science in 2014 from Jadavpur University. She was also a recipient of the prestigious Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) Masters' Fellowship in 2015.

Some of her writings have been published as web commentaries in ORF Expert Speak, South Asian Voices (Stimson Centre, USA) and web portals like The Kootneeti.

## **MR NIRANJAN C. OAK**

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Mr Niranjan Chandrashekhar Oak is a Research Analyst at Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi. His broad area of interest includes nuclear and security issues of the Indo-Pacific region. His area of focus will be China-Southeast Asia nuclear and emerging technology interactions. He has published for various think-tanks, news websites, and academic journals including peer-reviewed journals. Mr. Oak holds an M.Phil degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. In his M.Phil dissertation, he has studied various security orders in the Indo-Pacific region. Previously he has worked with Maritime History Society, Mumbai, and Centre for Land Warfare Studies, New Delhi. He is an alumnus of Mumbai University.