

From India to the World: Scaling Development Innovations for Global Impact

September 24, 2026

Consulate General of India, New York | 3 E 64th St, New York, NY 10065, United States

09:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Reception and Registration
10:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Welcome Remarks Amb. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan , Consul General, Consulate of India to New York Stefan Priesner , United Nations Resident Coordinator – India Host: Samir Saran , President, Observer Research Foundation, India
10:10 AM – 10:20 AM	Keynote Address Rohit Kansal , Secretary, Department of Rural Development, India
10:20 AM – 10:30 AM	Launch of the publication When Silicon Meets the Soil: India's AI Revolution
10:30 AM – 11:10 AM	Session 1 Beyond 2030: Rewiring Development for an Age of Intelligence, Inclusion and Instability The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were conceived in a world defined by optimism, globalisation, and steady progress. A decade later, development is unfolding amid geopolitical fragmentation, technological disruption, climate volatility, demographic shifts, and widening inequalities. The foundations of growth are changing. Digital technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), digital public infrastructure (DPI), women-led development, and new forms of South-South cooperation are reshaping how countries build prosperity, resilience, and competitiveness. Rural economies are central to this transition. It is critical to test and scale the next generation of solutions for rural economies including for food and nutrition security, digital inclusion, entrepreneurship, and climate resilience. Digital public systems are changing how governments reach citizens, provide targeted support, plan infrastructure and connect people to markets, finance, and essential services. Critically, DPIs are also allowing for better and easier data and use of data to inform decision making and prioritization. Development after 2030 will be defined not only by economic growth, but by the ability of states and societies to turn innovation into opportunity at scale – ensuring resilience and prosperity for each household and each person. ● As the world approaches 2030, which assumptions behind today's development architecture no longer hold, and what needs to be fundamentally redesigned rather than simply improved? ● How can rural economies become the engine of the next inclusive development story? Can AI and DPI be designed to widen access to markets, finance, and enterprise, rather than deepen divides that leave behind the most vulnerable? ● How can countries move beyond women's participation in development to place women at the centre of economic growth, innovation, and leadership?

	Panelists: Jason Lane, Senior Advisor to the President for Strategic Initiatives, University of Illinois, USA Rohit Kansal, Secretary, Department of Rural Development, India Caroline Berson, Vice President - Government Relations, PepsiCo, USA Arturo Franco, Chief Strategy Officer, World Bank Group, USA Deepthi Nukalapati, Chief Women Empowerment, Reliance Foundation, India Moderator: Dhruva Jaishankar, Executive Director, ORF America
11:10-11:30	In Conversation: Ashish Khanna, Director General, International Solar Alliance Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India Moderator: Samir Saran, President, ORF, India
11:30 AM – 11:45 AM	Speed Talk: Rethinking Risks, Unlocking Development Mehul Pandya, Managing Director and Group CEO, CareEdge, India
11:45 AM – 12:00 AM	Break
12:00 AM – 12:05 PM	Special Address: Archna Vyas, Country Director - India, Gates Foundation, India
12:05 PM – 12:15 PM	Keynote Address: Punya Salila Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India
12:15 PM – 12:55 PM	Session 2 Women, Children and Youth: Building Healthier Futures for the Next Billion The next billion people to access quality healthcare, education, nutrition, financial services, and economic opportunity will largely come from the developing world. Improving health outcomes for women, children, and young people is fundamental to achieving the SDGs, and unlocking more inclusive, resilient, and prosperous societies. India's experience demonstrates that lasting progress is achieved by combining strong public systems, community-led delivery, and technological innovation. Digital health, AI, DPI, and data-driven service delivery are expanding access to care, while frontline health workers, educators, and local institutions remain essential to improving health and human development outcomes. India's leadership in pharmaceuticals, vaccine manufacturing, digital health, and health innovation offers important lessons for delivering affordable, high-quality healthcare at population scale across the Global South. This session will explore how governments, industry, philanthropy, and communities can work together to build healthier futures for the next billion people and what lessons from India can inform development across the world. • What does meaningful inclusion actually look like? Beyond connectivity and

	devices, what outcomes should we measure for women, children and youth? - As countries confront declining births in some regions and youth population booms in others, how should they rethink investments in maternal health, early childhood development, adolescent wellbeing, and women's health as foundations of long-term prosperity? - Can the Global South leapfrog legacy health systems through AI and digital innovation, or does meaningful progress still depend on solving more fundamental gaps in workforce, financing, and trust? Carla Haddad Mardini, Global Director, Private Fundraising and Partnership, UNICEF Archna Vyas, Country Director - India, Gates Foundation, India Ishmeet Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Central Square Foundation, India Amit Thatte, Director, SII, India Mandeep Dhaliwal, Director: Prosperity & Well-Being Hub, UNDP Moderator: Vanita Sharma, Advisor - Strategic Initiatives, Reliance Foundation, India
12:55 PM – 1:05 PM	Spotlight Address The Mumbai-New York Climate Bridge Shishir Joshi, CEO & Founder, Project Mumbai
1:05 PM – 1:50 PM	Session 3 The AI Promise: Diffusion at Population Scale Global AI conversations are increasingly confined to a narrow race for bigger models, more compute, advanced chips, and the promise of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). For India and other emerging economies, the challenge is different: not merely to extend technological frontiers, but to make AI work across languages, sectors, institutions, and public service delivery. For much of the Global South, the real test of AI will not be whether it can mimic intelligence at the frontier, but whether it can solve real problems at population scale, frugally, responsibly, and in context. - How is India approaching AI differently from other states in the frontier tech race, and what could this mean for countries in the Global South? - Can public-purpose AI become the Global South's answer to AI development and diffusion? - What institutional, data, talent, and governance capacities are needed to move AI use cases from pilots to population-scale deployment? How should global AI governance balance innovation, safety, rights, national security, and equitable access? Keynote Address (5-7 Minutes): Amandeep Singh Gill, Under Secretary General and Special Envoy for digital and emerging technologies, United Nations Spotlight Address (5 Minutes): Deepika Mogilishetty, Chief - Policy and Partnerships, EkStep Foundation, India Panelists:

	Angela Baker, Chief Sustainability Officer, Qualcomm, USA Arielle Andrews, Public Sector Partnerships & Legal, ElevenLabs, USA Isabel De Sola Criado, Head of the Coordination Unit, Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, UN Hemang Jani, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director, World Bank Moderator: Rudra Chaudhuri, Vice President, ORF, India
1.50 PM – 2.50 PM	Lunch
2.50 PM – 3.30 PM	Session 4 Rules of Engagement: AI Governance for a Changing World AI governance is no longer a theoretical debate about future technologies. As AI capabilities accelerate, governments are being forced to answer harder questions: what must be regulated, who should regulate it, how do you deal with data, how do you make data AI ready, and when should the state have the power to intervene? From the Global Digital Compact and the UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance to the EU AI Act, AI Safety Institutes, and emerging national frameworks, the central challenge is to build architectures that can keep pace with the AI exponential without freezing innovation • Are existing regulatory models moving fast enough to govern AI systems whose capabilities are advancing exponentially? • How should global AI governance balance innovation, safety, rights, national security, and equitable access? • What role should institutions such as AI Safety Institutes, scientific panels, and global dialogues play in moving AI governance beyond voluntary commitments? Panelists: Amanda Craig, General Manager for Responsible AI Public Policy, Microsoft, USA Shalini Kapoor, Chief Strategist for Data and AI, EkStep Foundation, India Laurent Monjole, Vice President EMEA international government affairs, Salesforce Jennifer Louie, AI Trust & Safety Global Advisor, UNDP Shikoh Gitau, CEO, Qhala, Kenya Michael Sellitto, Global Head of Policy, Anthropic, USA Moderator: Anirban Sarma, Director - Digital Societies Initiative, ORF, India