



विदेश मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AND

**BCC&i**  
THE BENGAL CHAMBER

PRESENT



# INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE 2023

**29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

Theme: "India leads -  
towards 3rd largest economy"





## Shri T Rabi Sankar

Hon'ble Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India

**Mr T. Rabi Sankar**, a career central banker joined the Bank in 1990 and has worked in various capacities until he assumed the Office of Deputy Governor in May 2021. His current areas of responsibility include public debt management, forex reserves management, payment systems, IT infrastructure, currency management and foreign exchange management. Mr Sankar is also the Chairman of the Reserve Bank's currency notes printing Press. Mr Sankar has extensive experience in the area of public debt management. In the early 2000s, he played a key role in creating the regulatory framework for government securities market in India. He was also instrumental in setting up Reserve Bank of India's screen based anonymous Negotiated Dealing System (NDS) in Government Securities with guaranteed settlement through a central counterparty. More recently, under his guidance, RBI has rolled out a web-based system called "Retail Direct" enabling Indians to directly buy and sell Indian government bonds. Earlier, Mr Sankar worked in the Indian Government and helped in setting up government's public debt management unit inside the Ministry of Finance. He has also advised the Government of Bangladesh regarding their government securities market and served as an IMF Consultant (2005-11) on developing Government bond markets and debt management. As Deputy Governor In-Charge of Payment Systems, he has oversight of the well-known Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and other digital payment systems, all of which have contributed to widespread adoption of digital payments and positioned India as a leading country in this area. The RBI recently set up its own Innovation Hub in Bangalore which has devised a digital solution for speeding up disbursement of rural credit and other innovative initiatives for strengthening financial inclusion. More recently, the RBI has rolled out a pilot for testing the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). He has represented RBI on international forums like Bank for International Settlements and various internal and external expert committees and working groups. Mr Sankar has a Master of Philosophy in Economics from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.





## Shri Ajay Seth

Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India

Ajay Seth is a member of Indian Administrative Service with most of his professional experience in the domains of public finance, social sector administration, urban transport and infrastructure dealing with matters concerning public expenditure, tax policy and administration, budget, accounts, project appraisal, foreign investments, bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation, development financing, public-private-partnerships, school education, health, urban transport and infrastructure. Out of his career of 34 years, he has been in the public finance and taxation domains for 18 years and in social sector and urban transport & infrastructure domains for almost 3 years each in different positions in Government of India, Government of Karnataka and Asian Development Bank. He is a recipient of Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration in 2013, being a member of the team for "transformation of commercial tax administration in Karnataka". University of Roorkee and Ateneo de Manila University are his alma maters. He assumed the position of Secretary – Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India on April 15, 2021.





## **Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran** Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India

**Dr. V Anantha Nageswaran** was appointed as the Chief Economic Adviser in January, 2022. Dr. Nageswaran was a writer, author, teacher and consultant. He has written a weekly Mint column for fifteen years on Tuesdays, since 2007. He has co-authored four books: The Rise of Finance – Causes, Consequences and Cures; Derivatives; Can India Grow?; The Economics of Derivatives. He has taught at several business schools and institutes of management in India and in Singapore. He was the Dean of the IFMR Graduate School of Business and a distinguished Visiting Professor of Economics at Krea University. He was one of the founders of Aavishkaar Venture Capital Fund and the Takshashila Institution. He has served on the Academic Advisory Board of DAV Schools in Tamil Nadu and the Indian School of Public Policy. He was a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India from 2019 to 2021. In his corporate career spanning seventeen years from 1994 to 2011, he was a Currency Economist at the Union Bank of Switzerland, Head of Research and Investment Consulting in Credit Suisse Private Banking in Asia, Head of Asia Research and Global Chief Investment Officer at Bank Julius Baer. He was an independent Director on the Boards of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, Sundaram Fasteners, TVS Sri Chakra Tyres, Delphi TVS and Aparajitha Corporate Services. In 1985, he received a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He earned his doctoral degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in 1994 for his work on exchange rate behaviour.





## **Shri Suneet Mehta**

Dy Chief of Mission, HCl, Canberra,  
Australia

**Mr. Suneet Mehta** belongs to the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), a Central service of the Government of India. He holds a Degree of Bachelor of Commerce, Chartered Accountant and Company Secretary. He has served 14 years in various posting in Indian Embassies abroad as well as at Ministry of External Affairs handling various desks relating to India's external relations with countries in Europe and matters relating to United Nations; and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs handling matters related to International Cooperation and AMRUT Mission in India. He has served in Embassy of Madrid from 2009 to 2010 and thereafter in Embassy of Washington D.C. from 2014 to 2017, handling matters relating to US Congress. He is fluent in English, Spanish and Hindi. Since October 2021, he is working as Deputy High Commissioner in the High Commission of India, Canberra.





## Shri Mayank Joshi

Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India,  
Tokyo, Japan

**Mr. Mayank Joshi**, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Tokyo (Japan), is an Indian Foreign Service Officer with over 20 years of experience as a diplomat. He has worked in various capacities in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. He has represented India in the Indian Diplomatic Missions in France, Myanmar and the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York. At the Ministry of External Affairs Headquarters in New Delhi, he has worked on bilateral relations with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Disarmament and International Security Affairs (D&ISA). He is a Management Graduate and hobbies and interests include developments in international affairs, reading, travel, tennis, golf and swimming.



## **Shri Rajeev Kumar (IPS)**

Principal Secretary, Department of  
Information Technology & Electronics,  
Government of West Bengal





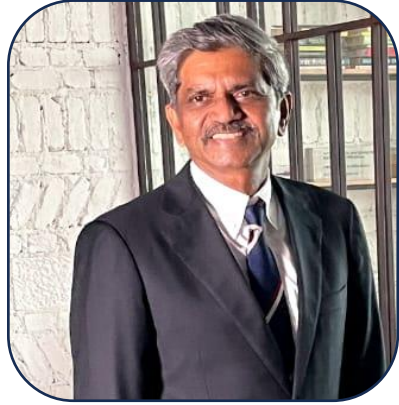


**Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh**  
Managing Director and Chief Executive  
Officer, Bandhan Bank Ltd. and Former  
President, BCC&I

**Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh** has been one of India's foremost proponents of financial inclusion. He has more than three decades of experience in microfinance, banking and development terrain. 'Bandhan' is the name of the not-for-profit entity that Mr. Ghosh had set up in April 2001, with the objective of changing the lives of the underprivileged by giving them small loans and handholding them in their entrepreneurial journey. The ethos of inclusive banking drives Mr. Ghosh. The banking licence recognises his seminal work in financial inclusion in India. Under Mr. Ghosh's leadership, the Bank, with a pan-India presence, caters to 3.07 crore customers and has more than 72,000 employees on its payroll as of June 30, 2023. Mr. Ghosh holds a master's degree in Statistics. He has attended the HBS-ACCION Program on Strategic Leadership at Harvard Business School. Among the numerous awards that Mr. Ghosh has won, the prominent ones include the following – 'Banker of the Year' for 2018-19 by Business Standard; CNN-IBN 'Indian of the Year' in 2016 in the Business category; Entrepreneur with Social Impact' 2014 by Forbes India Leadership Awards; 'Entrepreneur of the Year' 2014 by The Economic Times; 'Senior Ashoka Fellow' – social entrepreneurship award – in 2007 by Ashoka Foundation. Besides being the former Chairman of The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Eastern Region, and the former President of Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I), he is also associated with various other industry bodies. Some of them are- Member, Sectoral Committee on Private Sector Banks, Indian Banks' Association (IBA); Member, Corporate Governance Council, CII; Co-Chair, Financial Inclusion Committee, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI); Member of Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, Government of West Bengal; Member of College Advisory Committee (CAC) in College of Agriculture Banking (CAB), Pune; Distinguished Invitee on the Council of Management, All India Management Association (AIMA); Member, Expert Committee on repositioning the Microfinance Programme, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).







## Mr. Shiv Shivakumar

Operating Partner at Advent International,  
Gurgaon and Ex Chairman & CEO – PepsiCo  
India and Ex CEO, EM – Nokia

**Mr. Shiv Shivakumar** is currently working as an Operating partner with Advent Private Equity. Last five years he worked with Aditya Birla Group, a \$ 60 Billion conglomerate, ran global strategy and business development for the group all five years , ran the premium cement business from June 2018 to August 2020, ran the Global Textiles Business from Jan 2019 till Dec 2022 and ran the Corporate Economics cell from Feb 2022 to April 2022. He made the Global Textile business profitable for last three years, focusing on the value chain eco system partnerships and moving up the value chain into apparel and retail. He sat on the business review council of the 30 ABG businesses. From 2013 to 2018 he was Chairman of PepsiCo South Asia, a \$ 3 Billion business, made the business profitable and fundamentally altered Marketing, Go to Market, IT and People systems. Between 2006 to 2013 he served as MD & VP India Nokia and CEO & Sr VP Emerging Markets Nokia. He built the Nokia brand and business. During 2003 to 2006 he performed as VP & CEO Consumer Electronics Philips India. Before this he worked in Unilever India handling many categories – Beverages, Haircare, BayCare, Femcare in Sales, Marketing and General Management. He won awards like Asian leader of the year – AAMO, Asian Association of Management Organizations, Feb 2020; Indian Business leader KPMG and Horasis, Barcelona, June 2019; Distinguished Alumnus IIT Madras, 2016; Distinguished Alumnus IIM Calcutta, 2011 and Best CEO award, January 2010. Notable books written by him are “Reflections, a collection of articles”, 2015; “The Right Choice – resolving 10 career dilemmas” and “The Art of Management”.





## Shri Sanjeev Sanyal

Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

**Shri Sanjeev Sanyal** is currently a Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). He was the Principal Economic Adviser to the Finance Minister for five years till February 2022 and the Co-Chair of the G20's Framework Working Group. Prior to joining the government, he spent over two decades in financial markets and was Global Strategist and Managing Director at Deutsche Bank. He is an alumni of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi, Mr. Sanyal later attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. He was awarded the Eisenhower Fellowship in 2007 for his work on urban dynamics. In 2010 he was named as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in Davos. Mr. Sanyal is the author of a number of best-selling books including *Land of the Seven Rivers*, *The Ocean of Churn*, *India in the Age of Ideas*, and *the Indian Renaissance*. He has also published over two hundred articles and columns in leading national and international publications.





## **Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar**

Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India

**Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar** is a man on a mission, a former Silicon Valley chip designer, technocrat, successful entrepreneur, and now a minister with the Government of India – MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar is bringing to life the vision laid by Honourable PM Shri Narendra Modi – using technology to transform lives and creating a digital world that is safe and trusted for all digital Nagriks. He is a strong advocate for Young India – A Young India that he believes will play a pivotal role in the making of a New India.





## **Prof. Dr. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri**

Ph.D., Professor Emeritus and Head,  
Department of Economics, Adamas  
University and Chairperson, Economic Affairs  
Committee, BCC&I

**Dr. Ajitava Raychaudhuri** is Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University. Dr. Raychaudhuri is former Professor and former Head and Coordinator of Centre for Advanced Studies, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. He was a senior Fulbright Scholar at Economic Growth Center, Yale University and Reid Hall Scholar in Residence of Columbia University, Paris Campus. He was visiting faculty at Indian Statistical Institute (Calcutta), Calcutta University and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (Calcutta) as well as a visitor to SOAS, University of London. He had undertaken several important projects from UNESCAP, ADB, World Bank, UNDP, PEP, GDN etc and had published widely in journals and books.





**Mr. Vijay Deshwal**  
Chief Strategy Officer and Head of  
Investor Relations, Aditya Birla Capital  
Limited

**Vijay Deshwal** is the Chief Strategy Officer and Head of Investor Relations at Aditya Birla Capital. He is in-charge of formulating and facilitating execution and communication of Aditya Birla Capital's Strategic Initiatives and its positioning with investors, analysts and all stakeholders. In addition, he is driving the potential M&A opportunities and partnerships, synergistic with Aditya Capital's growth vision. Vijay is a seasoned banker with over two decades of diversified experience across banking, corporate finance, international business and operations. In his previous experiences, he was with the ICICI Bank for over 15 years and held a solid track record of growing businesses around the pillars of customer-centricity and profitability. He was credited with the setting up of the highly successful services sector franchise including new age businesses, driving the liability strategy for the corporate ecosystem, and the loan syndications' practice at the bank, that ranked continuously amongst the top 3 in the country. Vijay has a vast understanding of various asset classes, cyclicity of businesses and key metrics for creating profitable financial services businesses. Prior to joining Aditya Birla Capital, he was the CEO for the Financial Services Business of the Cyrus Poonawalla group where he led successful integration of a large acquisition and spearheaded key strategic initiatives for the group. Vijay is a noted speaker at various national and international industry forums including the Asia Pacific Loan Management Association, India Chapter and the Global Transaction Banking Congress by Euromoney, Amsterdam. He is a Post-Graduate in Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.





## Mr. Manish Kumar Agarwal

Chief Financial Officer, Indorama India Pvt Ltd.

**Mr. Manish Kumar Agarwal** is a Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant and Company Secretary with 27+ years of rich experience and in depth knowledge in various areas of corporate finance, treasury, merger and combinations, direct and indirect tax compliance and assessments, secretarial/legal matters etc. He has worked in leadership role with wide spectrum of large Indian Corporate Houses like MP Birla Group, Ambani and Adani Group, MNCs companies both in India and abroad having diversified interests & multiple product categories. Presently he is working with Indorama India Private Limited (IIPL) as CFO for their fertilizer business and based out of Kolkata. IIPL is one of the fastest growing fertilizer business company in the private sector and has a manufacturing capacity of close to 2 mln tons of Phosphatic & Urea fertilizer. Mr. Agarwal has played a key role in establishing and growth of fertilizer business of Indorama Group in India during last so many years.







## Mr. Simarpreet Singh

Director, JIS Group Educational Initiatives

**Mr. Simarpreet Singh**, Director, JIS Group is a young entrepreneur – heart and soul. He has acquired expertise in the arena of Finance and Accounting, over the last few years through his experience in the industry. Mr. Simarpreet Singh has completed his schooling from La Martiniere for Boys, Calcutta in the year 2010, graduation from St. Xaviers College in the year 2013, Chartered Accountancy from Institute of Chartered Accounts of India in the year 2015, and after that, he also has completed MBA from SP Jain School of Global Management in the year 2016. Other than his academic achievements, Mr. Singh has been professionally associated with industrial bodies such as the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCC&I), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), National Council Member of the Centre for Education Growth & Research (CEGR), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and many more. He is the Co-chairperson of the ICC National Expert Committee on Education & Training and the ICC Executive Committee member, who would be responsible for contributing towards the various initiatives aimed at reforms, policy advocacy, ease of doing business, market linkages, and promotion of sustainable business practices, etc. He is also the Committee Member of The Calcutta Punjab Club, Space Circle, Springfield Projects Private Limited, Army Officer Initiative, Fort William, Cricket Association of Bengal and The Aryan's Club. Furthermore, he has been an integral part of executing multiple MOUs with various foreign universities across 5 continents and continues to represent JIS at NAFTA in the United States annually. Mr. Simarpreet Singh takes charge of the academic and financial transformation of JIS Group.





**Mr. Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya**  
Director – Projects, NTPC Limited

**Shri Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya** is an Electrical Engineering Graduate from Jadavpur University, Kolkata and Postgraduate in Management from MDI, Gurgaon. Besides many technical training from time to time, he has attended training in Leadership Development in Singapore and completed short term course on Strategic Management from Harvard Business School in USA. In the year 1996, he moved to Talcher Thermal Power Station (460 MW), an Old and Underperforming asset, taken over by NTPC from Orissa State Electricity Board. He, along with his team, created history in turning around the station, which went on to become a top performing station in India for years thereafter, till as recent as 2021. Thereafter in 1999, he was assigned Corporate Function in Delhi wherein he significantly contributed to NTPC's vertical & horizontal business diversification as well as Mergers & Acquisitions growth through inorganic route. During the stint of almost 14 years, he had an illustrious career in Business Development function of NTPC in Domestic as well as International Prior to taking over the position of Director (Projects), he worked as MD and CEO of BIFPCL (Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company Limited), ED (Business Development) and ED(Projects) in NTPC. As Director(Projects), he is directly responsible for entire portfolio of Project Management, Contracts & Materials Management, Engineering Division, Project execution, R&D, Dispute Resolution, Digitalization & IT and International Business Development (IBD) activities, as functional Director of these major important verticals of NTPC. Apart from being a member of NTPC board, he is also Chairman in Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited, NGSL (JV between NTPC and GE) & NBPPL (NTPC-BHEL Power Projects Pvt Ltd), Vice Chairman in Fertiliser JV Company Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan limited, and Director on the Boards of Trincomalee Power Co. Ltd, Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Limited (BIFPCL) , Mini Ratna Companies like Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited (THDCIL) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO). He is Managing Committee member of Chamber of Commerce and also Member on the Advisory Committee of the Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, Osmania University. Very recently, he has been nominated as 'Chairperson' of the Research Council(RC) for CSIR-Chennai.





**Mr. Abhijit Banerjee**  
Managing Director, Linde India Limited

**Mr. Abhijit Banerjee** joined Linde India in the year 2009 and was appointed as Managing Director of the Company with effect from June 7 2019. He has rich experience of about 33 years in manufacturing sector covering design engineering, marketing, project management, business development and strategic account management across reputed companies including deputation for 18 months at Thyssen, Bochum, Germany. Mr. Banerjee holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.