

Government of India Speakers, Delhi (Alpha order by first name)



Anish Kumar
Advisor, DPA-III, Ministry of External Affairs

Mr. Anish Kumar is the advisor for development partnership administration in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. He is a public servant with a varied experience of over twenty years in the field of infrastructure projects in the “public-private partnership” mode, international transport connectivity projects, development partnership administration, and promoting digital public infrastructure abroad. Previously, he was the director for station redevelopment on the Railway Board at the Ministry of Railways. He has completed the Post Graduate Program in Public Policy & Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India, and the Maxwell School of Citizenship at Syracuse University, USA. He holds a master’s degree in technology (civil/structure) from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, and a Bachelor of Engineering from the National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur, India



Dammu Ravi
Secretary, Economic Relations,
Ministry of External Affairs

Mr. Dammu Ravi is Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Mr Dammu Ravi joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1989. He served in Indian Missions abroad in Mexico, Cuba, Brussels in various capacities from 1991 to 2001. He served at Headquarters in the Ministry of External Affairs as Director in the West Europe Division and also as Director, UN Division from 2001 to 2006. He was on deputation as Private Secretary to Minister of Tourism and Culture from March 2006 to May 2009. He was Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs responsible for India’s relations with Latin America and Caribbean countries from November 2009 to November 2013. On deputation to Ministry of Commerce as Joint Secretary he handled Trade Policy matters; WTO issues, especially trade disputes, NAMA, fisheries negotiations and trade policy reviews. He was part of Indian delegation to WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi in November 2015 and in Buenos Aires in December 2017. He also handled India’s relations with regional bodies on trade matters such as G20, BRICS, Commonwealth, SCO, APEC, IORA, ASEM, UNCTAD etc. He was India’s chief negotiator in the mega regional free trade agreement ‘Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)’. On return to Ministry of External Affairs in March 2020 he has been designated as Additional Secretary coordinating COVID related issues.

Mr. Dilip Asbe has been the managing director and chief executive officer of the National Payments Corporation of India



Dilip Asbe
MD & CEO, National Payments Corporation of India

(NPCI) since 2017. Earlier, he was the chief operating officer of NPCI. He has played a pivotal role in designing, building, operationalizing, and managing large-scale innovative payments processing platforms, like Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS), India's home-grown card network RuPay, and the much-acclaimed Unified Payments Interface (UPI). He was awarded the "Changemaker of the Year" Award by the former finance minister, the late Arun Jaitley, instituted by Business Line, for the revolutionary product UPI, which he spearheaded. In February 2023, he was conferred with a citation and awarded the Public Service Excellence Award 2022 by AIMA. He has also been conferred with the BMA TCS Business Leader of the Decade Award and the CNBC-TV18 India Business Leader Award. He holds a Master of Science (MS) degree in Global Management (Executive Programme) from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK.






Jivisha Joshi Gangopadhaya
Deputy Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry


Dr Jivisha Joshi Gangopadhaya is the Deputy Secretary in Logistics Division, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade in the Ministry of Commerce. She is the nodal officer for PMGatishakti. Along with PMGatishakti, her responsibilities include - National logistics policy, Green logistics initiative, International and EXIM related issues pertaining to logistics. She is also holding charge as the Managing Director, Jammu Kashmir Development Financial Corporation. She is an officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service. She is an avid reader, trained dancer and travel enthusiast.



Kiran Gopal Vaska
Joint Secretary and Mission Director, ABDM

Mr. Kiran Gopal Vaska, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 2008 batch from the Madhya Pradesh cadre, currently serves as Joint Secretary and Mission Director of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). With a distinguished career in public administration, he is at the forefront of India's digital health revolution, leading efforts to establish an integrated and accessible digital health ecosystem.

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|  <p>Kumar Sarthak Project Manager, BISAG-N</p> | <p>Mr. Kumar Sarthak has served as Project Manager at the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics since 2022. Previously he served as a Consultant at the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics</p> |
|  <p>Nikhil Sinha Director-Enforcement Unique Identification Authority of India</p> | <p>Colonel Nikhil Sinha, Director-Enforcement at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), is a seasoned professional with 27 years of expertise in technology project planning, leadership, and crisis management. Nikhil Sinha has served as the Director of Enforcement at the Unique Identification Authority of India since 2022. He is responsible for strategizing the usage of Digital ID systems and collaborating with multilateral agencies, both in the national and international arena.</p> |
| <p>Nirmit Mehrotra Senior Business Analyst, DigiLocker Team, National E-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)</p> | <p>Mr. Nirmit Mehrotra is a Senior Business Analyst with the DigiLocker Team at the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. In this role, he plays a pivotal role in driving the adoption and enhancement of DigiLocker, a flagship initiative aimed at providing secure and paperless access to essential documents for citizens of India.</p> |
|  <p>Periaswamy Kumaran</p> | <p>Mr. P. Kumaran currently serves as Special Secretary, Economic Relations & Development Partnership Administration at the Ministry of External Affairs. He is a 1992 batch IFS officer and is a former High Commissioner of India to Singapore and Ambassador to Qatar. Renowned as an expert on West Asia, he has served in key diplomatic positions in Cairo, Tripoli, Brussels, and Islamabad. He has also held significant roles as the Deputy High Commissioner to Colombo and Joint Secretary in charge of Consular, Passport, and Visa services.</p> |

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| <p>Special Secretary, Economic Relations & Development Partnership Administration (ER & DPA), Ministry of External Affairs</p> | |
|  <p>Prabhat Kumar High Commissioner of India to South Africa</p> | <p>Ambassador Prabhat Kumar assumed charge as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of South Africa on August 2, 2023. A member of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) since September 1991, he has held several prominent diplomatic and administrative roles. His first posting abroad was in Madrid from 1993 to 1996, where he completed Spanish language training and served as Head of Chancery, managing political and commercial affairs. From 1996 to 1999, he was First Secretary/Charge d' Affaires at the Indian Embassy in Zagreb, Croatia. Later, he served as Counsellor/First Secretary in charge of the Political Wing at the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 2003 to 2007. Between 2007 and 2010, he represented India as Counsellor/Minister at the Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, a UN-affiliated organization focused on international disarmament and arms control treaties.</p> <p>In subsequent years, Shri Prabhat Kumar served as India's Ambassador to Colombia and Ecuador from 2014 to 2017 and as Ambassador to Kazakhstan from 2017 to 2021. In the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), he worked in the Finance and Protocol Divisions from 1999 to 2003 and later served as Joint Secretary in charge of the Energy Security Division from 2010 to 2014. During this tenure, he also headed the Investment & Technology Promotion Division starting in 2012. From April to November 2021, he was Additional Secretary and Chief Passport Officer, overseeing the Passport Seva Project. Before his current role, he served as Special Secretary for Economic Relations and Development Partnership Administration in the MEA, managing key international partnerships and economic initiatives.</p> |



Rajesh Kumar
Director (International Cooperation),
Ministry of Electronics and
Information Technology

Mr. Rajesh Kumar is currently serving as Director in Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and responsible for all international cooperation matters related to G20, G7, WTO, BRICS, SCO, ASEAN, World Bank, ADB etc., bilateral engagements, international negotiations, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), international ICT Projects, E-Commerce issues; and promotion of Indian IT/Software and Electronics Industry at international fora. He has also handled Preferential Market Access (PMA) Policy and investment promotion in the Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) sector.



Rajiv Bansal
CEO, National Institute of Smart
Governance (NISG)

Mr. Rajiv Bansal, IAS (Retd), is a 1988 Batch IAS officer. Shri. Rajiv Bansal assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer of NISG on November 29, 2023. Previously, he served as Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Chairman & Managing Director of Air India, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Secretary at the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. He has also held several key positions in the Government of Nagaland.



Rohit Rathish
Joint Secretary (DPA-III), Ministry of
External Affairs

Mr. Rohit Rathish serves as the Joint Secretary (DPA-III) and Rapid Response Cell, Ministry of External Affairs. Under his leadership, DPA-III is championing the tailoring of DPI solutions to meet the unique needs of partner countries, fostering strategic partnerships, and aligning digital infrastructure with local development priorities.

Previously, he served as the Acting Chief of Protocol in the Ministry of External Affairs, where he played a pivotal role in managing high-level diplomatic engagements and protocol arrangements.



S. Krishnan
Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

Mr. S. Krishnan has been posted as secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, since September 11, 2023. Previously, he served as additional chief secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, from March 2020 to August 2023. Of the 1989 batch of the Indian Administrative Service, he has also been additional chief secretary in the Finance Department and principal secretary in the Housing and Urban Development Department and the Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department. He was the founder CEO of the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board. He has also served as the chairman of the Fifth Tamil Nadu State Finance Commission. He served as the senior advisor in the office of the executive director for India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Bhutan in the International Monetary Fund (Washington, DC) and represented the Government of India in the G20 expert groups on international financial architecture and global financial safety nets.





Sanket S. Bhondve
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

Mr. Sanket S Bhondve, IAS, is currently the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and has been appointed Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the ministry with the primary responsibility of setting up the Data Protection Board (DPB) under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act. Prior to his promotion to MeitY in July 2023, he was the Private Secretary to the Minister of Road Transport and Highway.



Sushil Pal

Sushil Pal is the Joint Secretary and Chief Vigilance Officer in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. He has over twenty-three years of extensive experience as a civil servant in various ministries of the Government of India. His portfolio includes the International Co-operation Division and the Internet Governance Division. He also served as the focal point and co-chair for the Digital Economy Working Group as part of India's G20 Presidency. He played a pivotal role in leading the G20 DPI negotiations, culminating in the first multilateral consensus on DPIs. He oversees investment and industry promotion in electronics hardware and semiconductors. He has extensive experience working on the program and finance verticals of various sectors, such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, economic sectors (Department of Fertilizers), social sectors (health), and

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| <p>Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)</p> | <p>the Revenue Department of the Government of India. He holds an MBA (Finance) and a postgraduate in operational research from Delhi University.</p> |
|  <p>Saurabh Tiwari Joint Secretary (DBT), Cabinet Secretariat</p> | <p>Mr. Saurabh Tiwari, currently Joint Secretary (DBT) at the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, has held diverse roles, including Deputy Director General at the Department of Telecommunications and Financial Advisor to the Indian Air Force. He has been instrumental in implementing Direct Benefit Transfer schemes, ensuring transparent and efficient welfare delivery to the poor and vulnerable groups.</p> |
| <p>Shashwati Arya Deputy Secretary (DPA-III) Ministry of External Affairs</p> | <p>Ms. Shashwati Arya, an officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS, 2012 batch), is currently serving as Deputy Secretary in the DPA-III Division at the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Previously, she has held positions as Under Secretary in the Indo-Pacific-1 and ASEAN ML Divisions, as well as First Secretary (PIC) at the High Commission of India in Bangladesh.</p> |
|  <p>Vinay Thakur Special Director General, BISAG-N</p> | <p>Mr. Vinay Thakur has served as the Special Director General, Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics {BISAG-N}, since September 2024. He is a Digital Transformation leader with 30 years of experience in implementing Digital Governance Projects and IT Contract Management and has implemented multiple mega e-Governance projects including Land Records Computerization, NREGA workflow, Mobile Fertilizer Monitoring System, Forest Rights, National Social Assistance Program, PMGSY, NRLM and the PM GatiShakti portal.</p> |

Government of South Africa (Alpha order by first name)

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| <p>Alfred Wiltz Chief Director: Telecommunications and IT Policy, Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT), Government of RSA</p> | <p>Alfred Wiltz is the Chief Director of Telecommunications and IT Policy at the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies. His role involves developing and implementing policies related to telecommunications and IT.</p> |
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Ayanda Hlatshwayo
 Chief Director: Data Lab, National Treasury, Government of RSA

Ayanda Hlatshwayo is the Chief Director of the Data Lab at the National Treasury. She holds a PhD in Economics from Stellenbosch University and a Master's degree in Economic Science from the University of the Witwatersrand. Her role involves leading data-driven initiatives to enhance decision-making processes within the government.



Matthew Chetty
 Impact Area Manager: e-

Government, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Government of RSA

Matthew Chetty is the Impact Area Manager for e-Government at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. His role focuses on leveraging technology to enhance government services and improve citizen engagement.



Gwen Ngwenya
 Advisor to the Minister

Gwen Ngwenya serves as an Advisor to the Minister, providing strategic advice and support on various policy and operational matters. Her role involves ensuring that the minister is well-informed and equipped to make effective decisions. Gwen also works for Visa as the Vice President of Public Policy in Southern Africa.





Lawrence Matemba
 Acting Head: Policy and Research




Services, Presidency, Government of RSA

Lawrence Matemba serves as the Acting Head of Policy and Research Services in the Presidency. His role involves developing and analysing policies to support the President's office.

Mandla Ngcobo
 Government Chief Information Officer, Department of Public Service and

Mandla Ngcobo is the Government Chief Information Officer at the Department of Public Service and Administration. He holds a Post Graduate Diploma in International Communication from the University of Fort

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| <p>Administration (DPSA), Government of RSA</p> | <p>Hare, a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Information Systems from Tshwane University of Technology, and a Master’s Degree in Telecommunications and Broadcasting Policy and Regulation from the University of the Witwatersrand. Mandla also has various certifications in project management, IT service management, and governance of enterprise IT from institutions like Pink Elephant, ISACA, and Analytix. His role involves developing and implementing the national e-Government strategy and roadmap</p> |
|  <p>Harry Thema Executive Manager, Statistics South Africa (StatsSA), Government of RSA</p> | <p>Harry Thema is an Executive Manager at Statistics South Africa (StatsSA). His role involves managing key aspects of the organization to ensure the delivery of high-quality statistical services.</p> |
|  <p>Mark Blecher Chief Director: Health and Social Development, National Treasury, Government of RSA</p> | <p>Mark Blecher serves as the Chief Director for Health and Social Development at the National Treasury. He holds a B.S. from Cornell University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Chinese politics from the University of Chicago. Mark is a specialist in Chinese politics and has published extensively on local politics, popular participation, and political economy</p> |
| <p>Mpho Mohlameane Applications Maintenance, Dr (PhD), State Information Technology Agency (SITA), Government of RSA</p> | <p>Mpho Mohlameane works in Applications Maintenance at the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) and holds a PhD. His role involves ensuring the smooth operation and maintenance of various IT applications within the government.</p> |
| | <p>Nonkqubela Jordan-Dyani is the Director General at the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT). With over 20 years of experience in the public sector, she has held senior management positions, including Deputy Director-General at the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services. Nonkqubela holds a BA and BA (Hon) in International Relations from the University of Fort Hare, as well as</p> |

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|  | <p>certificates in telecommunications policy, regulation, and management from Wits University and digital transformation strategy from the University of Cambridge. She has served on various national and international bodies, including the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the African Telecommunications Union (ATU).</p> |
| <p>Nonkqubela Jordan-Dyani Director General, Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT), Government of RSA</p> | <p>Paripureni Pillay is the Chief Director of Strategic and Advisory Support at the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies. Her role involves providing strategic advice and support to enhance the department's operations.</p> |
|  | <p>Rendani Ramabulana serves as a Non-Executive Director at the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) SOC Ltd, a critical institution tasked with advancing digital transformation and information technology services within South Africa's public sector. As part of the SITA Board, Rendani contributes to the strategic oversight and governance of the agency, ensuring the alignment of IT initiatives with national development goals. His role involves providing leadership in decision-making processes that enhance SITA's ability to deliver secure, innovative, and efficient technology solutions to government entities across the country.</p> |
| <p>Rendani Ramabulana Non-Executive Director, SITA</p> | <p>Saul Musker is the Director of Strategy and Delivery Support in the Private Office of the President. He holds a BA (cum laude) from the University of the Witwatersrand, with an Honours thesis focused on regional migration in Southern Africa. Saul is a Rhodes Scholar Alum and has co-authored a book on liberal constitutionalism in South Africa. He is also a columnist at The Daily Maverick and has written a novel shortlisted for the Dinaane Award for Debut Fiction. In his spare time, he is a debater, long-distance swimmer, and triathlete.</p> |
|  | <p>Saul Musker Director: Strategy and Delivery Support in the Private Office of the President, Presidency, Government of RSA</p> |



Khule Duma

Director: Project Management Office in the Private Office of the President, Presidency, Government of RSA

Khule Duma is the Director of the Project Management Office in the Private Office of the President. His role involves managing various projects to support the President's strategic objectives. His experience in project management is crucial in ensuring timely and effective delivery of projects.



Thabiso Thukani

Non-Executive Director, DCDT

Thabiso Thukani is a distinguished representative of the DCDT , specializing in policies and strategies that drive digital transformation across South Africa.

He actively engages in projects like the development of the 5G Forum and amendments to legislation aimed at facilitating rapid deployment of technologies, bridging the digital divide, and ensuring universal connectivity. Thabiso also contributes to global conversations on next-generation technologies, including 6G advancements, representing South Africa on international platforms like the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Treven Rabinhnath

Director: ICT Innovations Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT), Government of RSA

Treven Rabinhnath is the Director of ICT Innovations at the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies. His role focuses on driving innovation in information and communication technologies, promoting digital transformation within South Africa.

Genesis Analytics (Alpha order by first name)



Eugene Sampson

Senior Technical Lead: Digital Innovation in the Public Sector (DIPS) - Genesis Analytics

Eugene Sampson serves as a Senior Technical Lead at Digital Innovation in the Public Sector (DIPS) with Genesis Analytics. His role involves providing technical expertise to drive digital innovation and improve public sector services.



Kathy Nicolaou-Manias
Technical Director: Digital Innovation in the Public Sector (DIPS) - Genesis Analytics

Kathy Nicolaou-Manias is the Technical Director at Digital Innovation in the Public Sector (DIPS) with Genesis Analytics. Kathy holds an MCOM in Economics from the university of the Witwatersrand. She is a seasoned professional with a strong background in IT, digital innovation, and public sector transformation. Her role involves leading technical teams in developing and implementing innovative digital solutions for the public sector.



Kiruben Pillay
Member of the Board

Kiruben Pillay is a member of the board, contributing to strategic decision-making and governance. His expertise spans various sectors, including IT and public service.



Korstiaan Wapenaar
Project Manager: Digital Innovation in the Public Sector (DIPS) - Genesis Analytics

Korstiaan Wapenaar is a Project Manager at Digital Innovation in the Public Sector (DIPS) with Genesis Analytics. He holds a masters in both Computer Science and Economics from the University of the Witwatersrand. His role involves managing projects aimed at enhancing digital capabilities within the public sector.






Ndodzo Mawela

Ndodzo Mawela is a Management Consultant with over five years of experience in Financial Services and Strategy. In his role at Genesis Analytics, he leads initiatives aimed at advancing Financial Inclusion and supporting MSME development across Africa. His work involves collaborating with governments, central banks, and global institutions such as the World Bank and African Development Bank to design and implement impactful development strategies, market diagnostics, and national financial inclusion policies. Beyond his expertise in financial services, Ndodzo coordinates

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| <p>Manager Financial Services and Strategy Genesis Analytics</p> | <p>research on digital public infrastructure in South Africa, contributing to innovative solutions that foster sustainable growth.</p> |
| <div data-bbox="185 323 451 569" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="155 625 638 758"> Richard Gevers Senior Technical Lead: Digital Innovation in the Public Sector (DIPS) - Genesis Analytics </p> | <p data-bbox="691 411 1357 653"> Richard Gevers is a Senior Technical Lead at Digital Innovation in the Public Sector (DIPS) with Genesis Analytics. His role involves driving digital innovation and public sector transformation through strategic projects. Richard holds a B.Comm in economics and applied economics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and CIMA . </p> |

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Alpha order by first name)

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| <div data-bbox="155 1020 483 1276" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="155 1283 643 1455"> Archna Vyas Director, Program Advocacy and Communications, Growth, Opportunity, and Empowerment, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation </p> | <p data-bbox="691 1020 1357 1583"> Archna Vyas oversees advocacy and communications efforts for two foundation divisions: Global Growth & Opportunity and Gender Equality. Her work advances the goals of the foundation and its partners in areas such as digital public infrastructure, financial inclusion, agricultural productivity, urban sanitation, nutrition, global education, women’s economic empowerment, and women in leadership. Archna joined the foundation in 2014 and went on to hold multiple leadership positions in the India office, collaborating with governments, nonprofits, community groups, academia, and the private sector. She was instrumental in the creation of the Behavioural Insights Unit within the Indian government’s NITI Aayog policy think tank, in collaboration with Ashoka University’s Centre for Social and Behaviour Change. </p> |
| <div data-bbox="155 1589 451 1879" data-label="Image"> </div> | <p data-bbox="691 1688 1357 1787"> Arnav Kapur is a Deputy Director in Policy, Communications, and Philanthropic Partnerships at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. </p> |

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| <p>Arnav Kapur Deputy Director, Policy, Communications, and Philanthropic Partnerships, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation</p> | |
|  | <p>Deon is a Senior Advisor, Global Policy at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she leads the Digital Public Infrastructure and Inclusive Financial Systems teams’ policy and advocacy engagement with multilateral institutions (United Nations, World Bank, African Union) and cross-border policy harmonization, including related to women’s economic power, privacy, cyber security and artificial intelligence. Deon joined the foundation from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), where she served as attorney-advisor and senior international counsel. She serves on advisory panels for the United Nation’s Better than Cash Alliance, the World Bank’s Consultative Group for the Poor, the UN Foundation’s Digital Impact Alliance, Partnership on AI, and the American University School for International Service. Deon holds a J.D. from the University of Chicago (Law Review), an M.A. from the University of Michigan, a triple major B.A. from American University, studied at Harvard and was a Fulbright Scholar. She proudly served as an official election monitor for South African President Nelson Mandela’s historic election.</p> |
| <p>Deon Woods Bell Senior Advisor, Global Policy, Digital Public Infrastructure - Inclusive Financial Systems, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation</p> | |
|  | <p>Devesh Sharma works on applying digital technologies and DPI approaches to management of public finances. Previously, he worked alongside subnational and union government in India, and the World Bank on making public financial management systems more effective, interoperable, evolvable and observable. He is a Chartered Accountant by training and holds a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard University.</p> |
| <p>Devesh Sharma Senior Program Officer, Global Policy and Advocacy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation</p> | |
|  | <p>Hari Menon leads the India Office of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He also oversees the foundation’s work in South and South-East Asia. In this role as Director of the India Office, Hari manages the foundation's work in India, with an objective to improve conditions of family health, sanitation, digital financial inclusion, agriculture, and gender equality. He leads these efforts to advance the country’s health and development goals by working closely with India's central and state governments, local and global non-</p> |
| <p>Hari Menon</p> | |

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| <p>Director, India Country Office, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation</p> | <p>profits, community groups, researchers, and the private sector. Hari has led many complex portfolios in the foundation and has been successful in advancing the goals by engaging with governments, public and private partners, philanthropists and non-governmental organizations.</p> |
|  <p>Kanwaljit Singh Deputy Director, Digital Public Infrastructure, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation</p> | <p>Kanwaljit Singh leads the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) team’s efforts in the areas of digital identity, cybersecurity, and applications of emerging technologies to accelerate development outcomes. Kanwal graduated from Cornell University with a Ph.D. in Physical Organic Chemistry and joined the Components Research division at Intel Corporation where he led teams tasked with investigating advanced technologies in materials science, semiconductor fabrication, device integration and reliability. As a chair of multiple strategic research sectors, Kanwal was responsible for driving advanced technology research efforts over six generations of Moore’s law in industry, academia, and consortia-led engagements.</p> |
|  <p>Matshidiso Masire Deputy Director, Southern Africa, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation</p> | <p>Matshidiso Masire leads the foundation’s Southern Africa initiatives, with a focus on public health, sustainable development, economic empowerment, and gender equality. With over three decades of experience in social justice and inclusive development, she collaborates with governments, NGOs, and the private sector to address Africa’s key challenges, leveraging her expertise and extensive networks to drive impactful change. Matshidiso has held leadership roles at prominent organizations, such as the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, Virgin Unite, The Coca-Cola Company, Motorola, and Barclays Bank Botswana, where she oversaw the development and management of global, regional, and country-level initiatives. Her experience includes advising governments on policy development and program implementation, alongside a robust corporate governance portfolio, having served on the boards of publicly listed companies, private enterprises, and nonprofit organizations.</p> |



Dr. Pawan Bakhshi

India Country Lead, Inclusive Financial Systems, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Pawan Bakhshi is the India Country Lead – Inclusive Financial Systems at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation where he works to broaden the reach of low-cost digital financial services for the poor. He is not focused on establishing a particular product or distribution channel, but rather on finding innovative ways to expand access and encourage markets to determine which products and channels are most effective. He focuses on how to deliver digital financial services efficiently and effectively to the poor & women which can be quickly scaled to national levels while closely working with the Government, Regulators, Public and Private sector players. In the past, he has worked with two of the leading Asian telecom services providers, namely Bharti Airtel in India and SingTel in Singapore in Mobile payments. He is a pioneer in the Digital Financial service arena and co-creator of India's first mobile wallet - Airtel Money. He has been a part of several RBI committees on Financial Inclusion and a global evangelist for bringing the unbanked and the underbanked into the formal economy.



Pranay Sinha,

Lead, South-South Cooperation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Pranay Sinha's work with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation focuses on fostering regional cooperation and building robust multistakeholder partnerships across multilateral, public, and private sectors. He engages in accelerating cross-border knowledge exchange and facilitating the dissemination of good practices between India and other geographies in the Global South. He holds a master's degree in Aid Management from the University of Birmingham, UK



Robin Rajput


Event Planner, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Robin is an Event Planner for the India Country Office with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

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|  | <p>Sanjay Jain is the Director of the new Digital Public Infrastructure team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He leads the foundation’s work supporting and equipping low- and middle-income countries to adopt safe and inclusive Digital Public Infrastructure. Before joining the foundation in 2024, Sanjay was a partner at Bharat Innovation Fund, which invests in early-stage companies that use intellectual property as a business differentiator. Earlier, at IIMA Ventures, he led efforts at the Bharat Inclusion Initiative to bring more people into the formal economy and workforce in India.</p> |
| <p>Sanjay Jain, Director, Digital Public Infrastructure, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation</p> | |
|  | <p>Suchita is a Senior Program Assistant in the India Country Office for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.</p> |
| <p>Suchita Kaushik Senior Program Assistant, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation</p> | |

Ecosystem Partners (Alpha order by first name)

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|  | <p>Abhishek Raj is an experienced professional in technology policy and digital inclusion, currently serving as an Assistant Manager and Technology Policy Analyst at MSC since January 2023. Previously, Abhishek worked as a Researcher at the Centre for Internet and Society, focusing on telecommunication and digital economy policies, and as a Research Assistant at ICRIER, contributing to projects related to telecom and infrastructure. Abhishek also completed an internship at the Competition Commission of India, where recognition was received for outstanding performance, and authored a paper on OTT services. Educational qualifications include an M.Sc. in Regulatory Governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences and a B.Tech. in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology.</p> |
| <p>Abhishek Raj Assistant Manager, Microsave Consulting</p> | |
| <p>Anshul Pachouri Senior Manager, Microsave Consulting</p> | <p>Anshul Pachouri is a Senior Manager at Microsave Consulting</p> |

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|  | <p>David Porteous CEO, Integral Solutionists</p> | <p>David Porteous is the CEO of Integral Solutionists, a company focused on providing innovative solutions in various sectors. David founded several companies and is a Digital Public Infrastructure and Inclusive Financial Systems pioneer with over 30 years of experience. He holds a PHD in economics from Yale university as well as a Master’s in Politics and Economics of Development from the University of Cambridge. His role involves leading the organization in delivering strategic and impactful projects.</p> |
| <p>Shambhavi Pant Consultant</p> | <p>Shambhavi Pant is a consultant with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation working on South-South Collaboration.</p> | |