PROFILES OF JURY MEMBERS

Jury Chairman: Prof. S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)



Prof. S. Mahendra Dev is presently Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). He has served as Director and Vice Chancellor, IGIDR, Mumbai, and Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. He was also Director, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, and member of the National Statistical Commission.

A distinguished economist, Prof. Dev has around 150 research publications and 23 books. He has advised international organisations including the World Bank, UNDP, IFPRI, UNESCO, ILO, FAO and OECD, and served on Government of India committees. He received the Malcolm Adisesaiah Award in 2016.

Jury Co-Chair: Mr. Sunil Kant Munjal, Chairman, Hero Enterprise



Sunil Kant Munjal is a second-generation member of the family that founded the Hero Group and Chairman of Hero Enterprise, with interests in insurance distribution, steelmaking, real estate and an Investment Office.

He sits on the boards of IIM Ahmedabad, ISB, SRCC and University of Tokyo, and is a trustee of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He co-founded BML Munjal University and is President of Dayanand Medical College and Hospital, Ludhiana. He has served as President of CII and AIMA. He is also actively involved in promoting arts and culture through the Serendipity Arts Foundation and Ludhiana Sanskritik Samagam.

Mr. Harish Krishnan, Managing Director & Chief Policy Officer, Cisco South and Southeast Asia



Harish Krishnan is Managing Director & Chief Policy Officer, Cisco South and Southeast Asia, where he leads Cisco's strategic engagement with governments on public policy. He also leads the Cisco India Purpose Office, advancing its mission of "Powering an Inclusive Future for All."

Harish brings over 30 years' experience in technology and public policy. He serves as Mentor MAIT, Chairman of the Telecom Committee at MAIT and CSR Committee, American Chamber of Commerce in India, and member of the CII National Committee on Communications and Information Technology. He is former President and Co-Founder of PAFI.

Mr. Madan Pillutla, Dean and Professor, Organisational Behaviour, Indian School of Business (ISB)



Madan Pillutla is Dean and Professor of Organisational Behaviour at the Indian School of Business (ISB), a position he has held since July 2021. He holds degrees from BITS Pilani, XLRI Jamshedpur and the University of Illinois, and a PhD from the University of British Columbia.

His research focuses on decision making and negotiations, particularly cognitive and motivational biases. He has received awards and served on journal boards. He has advised companies and institutions including UNDP and the World Bank, and serves on boards including Cyient DLM, Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences and T-Hub.

Ms. Nara Brahmani, Executive Director, Heritage Foods Limited



N Brahmani has been with Heritage Foods since 2013, focusing on strategic resource allocation, digital transformation, business development and marketing initiatives. Prior to Heritage Foods, she worked with Vertex Venture Management, a venture capital subsidiary of Temasek Holdings, focusing on growth equity investments.

N Brahmani holds an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Santa Clara University, graduating Summa cum Laude. She also completed Executive Education in Digital Marketing Strategies from Kellogg. She is a member of YPO Hyderabad and serves as Trustee of NTR Memorial Trust and NBTRMCF.

Prof. K.K. Pant, Director, IIT Roorkee



Prof. K. K. Pant is Director, IIT Roorkee (on deputation), and Petrotech (FIPI) Chair Professor. He was formerly Dean Faculty and Professor (Former Head), Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Delhi. He has over 30 years of academic and industrial research experience.

His research spans catalysis and reaction engineering, biomass valorisation, hydrogen generation, CO_2 capture and conversion, e-waste and plastic management, and sustainable energy and environment. He has published over 300 papers, holds numerous patents and has completed over 50 high-impact projects and consultancies. He has received several honours, including two GYTI Awards, and is a Fellow of several national and international academies.

Mr. Rahul Kanwal, CEO & Editor-in-Chief, NDTV



Rahul Kanwal is CEO and Editor-in-Chief of NDTV and a recognisable face in Indian television. With a 27-year career spanning Zee News, the India Today Group and NDTV, he brings over two decades' experience as a journalist, anchor and newsroom leader. He is known for election reportage, psephology and electoral analysis.

Rahul has pioneered data-led journalism, visualisation, investigations and factchecking. An alumnus of Harvard Business School's General Management Program and Honorary Fellow of Cardiff University, his work has been recognised by industry bodies. At NDTV, he is focused on building a new media ecosystem while building on its legacy of trust.

Ms. Vaishali Nigam Sinha, Co-founder, ReNew Power & President, Governing Council, UNGCNI



Vaishali Nigam Sinha is Co-Founder and Chairperson, Sustainability at ReNew, a leading decarbonisation solutions company listed on NASDAQ. She leads ReNew's net-zero agenda and ESG strategy and is Founding Chair of ReNew Foundation. Its CSR programmes have positively impacted over 1.5 million lives. In 2025, she was elected President of the UN Global Compact Network India.

Vaishali serves as Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Alliance for Clean Air, member of TERI's Governing Council and Co-Chair of CII's Centre for Women Leadership. Her leadership has been recognised by Fortune India, Reuters and Business Today.

Mr. Vikas Swarup, Former Diplomat and Writer



Ambassador Vikas Swarup is a former Indian diplomat, television host and bestselling author. During a 35-year Indian Foreign Service career, he served in missions in Ankara, Washington DC, Addis Ababa, London, Pretoria, Osaka-Kobe and Ottawa, and was India's High Commissioner to Canada. He also served as Official Spokesperson and Secretary (West).

After retiring, he hosted Diplomatic Dispatch on Sansad TV from 2021–2023. He authored Q&A, adapted into the Academy Award-winning film Slumdog Millionaire, and other novels translated into 47 languages. The Girl with the Seven Lives won the Kalinga Literary Award for Best Fiction Book. He has received four honorary doctorates.