



# INDO-SRI LANKA ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

## India Dialogue with Neighbours



**28 MAY 2022**  
 Thursday



**CONFERENCE ROOM -**  
 IIC, New Delhi, India

### FOCUS SESSIONS



**1. DEEPENING TRADE AND  
 LOGISTICS INTEGRATION**



**2. CROSS - BORDER  
 INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION**



**3. DIGITISATION, ENERGY  
 AND TOURISM**



**4. REAL SECTOR (MSME,  
 AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES)**



## **Concept Note**

### **India Dialogue with Neighbours**

#### **Fostering Deeper Economic Ties: One-Day Indo-Sri Lanka Economic Conference**

**Thursday, May 28, 2026**

**Conference Room 2, IIC, New Delhi**

#### **Introduction and Rationale**

EGROW Foundation is attempting to create an ecosystem in India and its neighbourhood, leading to regional cooperation and development through academic diplomacy. In this context, since inception in October 2018, EGROW Foundation has conducted various online webinars with academicians and policymakers from neighbouring countries especially Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. We have noted that neighbouring countries are keen to take advantage of India's growth story and learn from Indian experience. EGROW successfully completed a One- Day Conference on Indo-Nepal Economic Relations on December 20, 2024. Encouraged by the results, EGROW foundation is exploring similar exercise with neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Mauritius and Maldives.

India and Sri Lanka share a time-tested relationship rooted in over 2,500 years of civilizational, historical, cultural, and religious ties. As close maritime neighbours, their geographic proximity has nurtured a deep, multidimensional, and forward-looking partnership— encompassing political dialogue, economic engagement, infrastructure development, and defence cooperation—all based on mutual respect, shared values, and common regional aspirations. Sri Lanka is central to India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and the MAHASAGAR vision (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), while supporting Sri Lanka's vision for regional hub status and its Blue Economy objectives.

A significant milestone in this trajectory was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence Cooperation during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Sri Lanka in April 2025. This marks a qualitative shift in bilateral defence relations, opening avenues for greater coordination in maritime security, humanitarian assistance, and regional stability in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

India continues to be Sri Lanka's largest trading partner and a leading development partner and investor. Indian investments and lines of credit in priority sectors—including renewable energy, petroleum infrastructure, ports, logistics, railways, digital public infrastructure, banking, and tourism—are aligned with Sri Lanka's development priorities and economic stabilisation efforts. Cooperation in energy connectivity, including grid interconnection and petroleum pipeline initiatives, along with port and maritime collaboration, reflects a strategic commitment to regional integration.

Cooperation in culture, education, health, capacity-building, and community development continues to reinforce the enduring people-to-people bonds of the partnership.

The One-Day conference is designed to harness the current momentum in bilateral ties between India and Sri Lanka, leveraging their rich history of engagement to chart innovative and evidence-based pathways for enhanced economic cooperation. The event will convene policymakers, scholars, business leaders, and development practitioners to deliberate on strategic avenues for expanding trade, investment, connectivity, and development cooperation. Anchored in Sri Lanka's development aspirations and India's Viksit Bharat @2047 vision, the conference ultimately seeks to advance a resilient, inclusive, and future-oriented partnership grounded in shared prosperity and regional peace.

### **Overall Conference Objective**

The overall conference objective is to strengthen and secure the long-term viability of the Indo-Sri Lanka economic partnership through evidence-based dialogue. This is achieved by analyzing and formulating actionable strategies for sustained, inclusive, and resilient growth.

### **Specific Objectives**

1. To identify actionable measures for deepening Indo–Sri Lanka trade and logistics integration by strengthening bilateral supply chain linkages, reducing trade frictions, and advancing regulatory and standards harmonization, including on Non-Tariff Measures.
2. To explore concrete pathways for scaling cross-border investments and fostering innovation by highlighting opportunities in infrastructure, technology, logistics, green energy, and advanced manufacturing, and by outlining enabling policy and regulatory frameworks.
3. To develop strategies for enhancing two-way tourism flows by improving connectivity, co-creating integrated tourism circuits, and promoting collaborative branding and service standards that support sustainable and inclusive tourism development.
4. To strengthen real-sector cooperation by promoting MSME partnerships and agri-value chain integration, with a focus on technology transfer, market access, and collaborative initiatives that support rural livelihoods and enterprise growth.
5. To synthesize insights from conference sessions into a forward-looking roadmap for Indo–Sri Lanka economic cooperation, outlining priority areas, timelines, and mechanisms for implementation in line with Sri Lanka's development priorities and India's Viksit Bharat @2047 vision.

**Programme Schedule**  
**One-Day Indo - Sri Lanka Economic Conference on Fostering Deeper Economic Ties**  
**Thursday, May 28, 2026**  
**Conference Room 2, IIC, New Delhi**

<b>9:30am-10:00am</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>10:00am-10:30am</b>	<p><b>Inaugural Session</b></p> <p>Dr. Charan Singh, CEO EGROW Foundation  Welcome</p> <p>Dr. Arvind Virmani, Chairman and Founding Director EGROW,  Former Member, NITI Aayog</p> <p><b>Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu</b>, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of  Delhi <i>(TBC)</i></p>
<b>10:30am-11:15am</b>	<p><b>Special Session</b></p> <p><b>Theme:</b>  <i>Context Setting</i></p> <p>Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Coordinator DAKSHIN, RIS  <i>Topic: Reimagining ISFTA: Rules of Origin and a Modern Trade Architecture for India–Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>H.E. Mahishini Colonne, High Commissioner, Sri Lanka  <i>Topic: Promoting bilateral cooperation</i></p> <p>Ms. Aparna Ray, JS, Ministry of External Affairs  <i>Topic: Need for Indo-Sri Lanka cooperation</i></p> <p>Mr. Vishwesh Negi, JS, Ministry of External Affairs <i>(TBC)</i>  <i>Topic: Regional Connectivity</i></p>
<b>11:15am-11:30</b>	<b>Tea / Coffee</b>

<p><b>11:30am-1:00pm</b></p> <p><b><i>Key Discussion Areas:</i></b></p> <p>a. Strengthening bi-lateral trade and supply chain link-ages</p> <p>b. Addressing Non-Tariff Measures and regulatory harmonization</p>	<p><b>Session 1: Deepening Trade and Logistics Integration</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p>Dr. Nishan de Mel, ED, Verité Research, Sri Lanka <i>Topic: Credibility, Tax Reform, and the Trade Environment: What Sri Lanka Owes Its Trading Partners</i></p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <p>Mr. Afaq Hussain, Director, BRIEF <i>Topic: Reducing Non-Tariff Measures and Streamlining the Land/Sea Port Interface</i></p> <p>Dr. Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, ICRIER <i>Topic: Services, SEZs, and the Unfinished CEPA Agenda</i></p> <p>Mr. Talal Rafi, Consultant, European Union <i>Topic: Macro Vulnerabilities and the Case for Diversifying Sri Lanka's Trade Relationships</i></p> <p>Mr. Virender Bhardwaj, COO, EV Division, Propel Industries <i>Topic: Green Logistics Corridors: How Indian-Made EV Heavy Trucks Can Decarbonise India–Sri Lanka Supply Chains</i></p> <p>Mr. Updeep Singh Chatrath, CEO (Odisha) and Resident Director, Welspun World <i>Topic: Manufacturing Across the Palk Strait: Lessons from Welspun's Global Footprint</i></p> <p>Mr. Debapriya Mukherjee, Head - International Business, Transport Corporation of India <i>Topic: Multimodal Logistics Corridors: A Practitioner's View on India–Sri Lanka Connectivity</i></p> <p>Mr. Anushka Wijesinha, Co-Founder/Director, Centre for a Smart Future, Sri Lanka (Online) <i>Topic: Sri Lankan Exporters Under Trade Policy Uncertainty: Implications for Indian Supply Chains</i></p>
<p><b>1:00pm-1:45pm</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>

<p><b>1:45pm-3:15pm</b></p> <p><b><i>Key Discussion Areas:</i></b></p> <p>a. Expanding infrastructure investments and Strengthening innovation ecosystems</p> <p>b. Opportunities in technology, logistics, green energy, and advanced manufacturing</p>	<p><b>Session 2: Cross - Border Investment and Innovation</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p>Mr. M. Raghuraman, Former President, Indo-Lanka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sri Lanka  <i>Topic: The Business Bridge: Chamber Perspective on the Investment Pipeline</i></p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <p>Mr. Dhananath Fernando, CEO, Advocata Institute, Sri Lanka  <i>Topic: Removing Investment Barriers: A Market-Oriented Reform Agenda for Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>Dr. Surjit Bhalla, Former ED, IMF  <i>Topic: Capital Flows, Convertibility, and South Asia's Investment Architecture</i></p> <p>Mr. Hasitha Premaratne, MD, Brandix India Apparel City, Sri Lanka  <i>Topic: Building Vertically-Integrated Industrial Parks: The BIAC Visakhapatnam Story</i></p> <p>Prof. Biswajit Nag, IIFT  <i>Topic: Global Production Networks and India–Sri Lanka FDI Linkages</i></p> <p>Prof. Nisha Taneja, ICRIER  <i>Topic: India–Sri Lanka Trade and Investment: Two Decades of Evidence and What's Next</i></p> <p>Mr. Thilan Wijesinghe, Former Chairman, BOI, Sri Lanka (Online)  <i>Topic: Investment Promotion and PPPs: Sri Lanka's Track Record and Pipeline</i></p>
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<p><b>3:15pm-4:30pm</b></p> <p><i>Key Discussion Areas:</i></p> <p>a. Strengthening digital connectivity, fintech, digital public infrastructure, and regional cooperation in renewable energy.</p> <p>b. Developing smart tourism ecosystems and jointly promoting heritage, coastal, and cultural tourism.</p>	<p><b>Session 3: Digitisation, Energy and Tourism</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p>Mr. Saliya Wickramasuriya, Former Chairman, BOI, Sri Lanka <i>Topic: Sri Lanka's Petroleum, Natural Gas and Upstream Energy Opportunities</i></p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <p>Dr. Rohan Samarajiva, Chair, LIRNEasia, Sri Lanka <i>Topic: Digital Public Infrastructure: Sri Lanka's Roadmap and the India Adoption Pattern</i></p> <p>Mr. Anuj Jain, Director (Finance), Indian Oil Corporation <i>Topic: Energy Security and Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure: The IOC View</i></p> <p>Mr. Nimal S Cooke, ED, Capital Maharaja Group, Sri Lanka <i>Topic: Mining and Minerals: Opportunities for India and Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>Mr. Arvind Singh, Former Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, GOI <i>Topic: Reviving Tourism Corridors Post-Pandemic: India–Sri Lanka Lessons</i></p> <p>Prof. Ganesh L, Christ University <i>Topic: Tourism, Health Management and Services: An Academic Frame for the Sector</i></p> <p>Mr. Srilal Miththapala, Tourism Consultant, ADB, Sri Lanka (Online) <i>Topic: Sustainable, Smart Tourism Ecosystems: Where Sri Lanka Should Position</i></p>
<p><b>4:30pm-4:45pm</b></p>	<p><b>Tea / Coffee</b></p>

<p><b>4:45pm-6:00pm</b></p> <p><i>Key Discussion Areas:</i></p> <p>a. Strengthening MSME linkages in agriculture, fisheries, agro-processing, and rural value chains.</p> <p>b. Promoting climate-smart agriculture, sustainable fisheries, and AI-enabled technologies to enhance productivity, market access, and incomes.</p>	<p><b>Session 4: Real Sector (MSME, Agriculture and Fisheries)</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p>Prof. Ramesh Chand, Former Member, NITI Aayog <i>Topic: Climate-Smart Farming and Growth Model for South Asian Agriculture</i></p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <p>Prof. Ashok Vishandass, Former Chairman, CACP <i>Topic: Pricing Policy, MSP, and Agricultural Trade Restrictions: Lessons for South Asia</i></p> <p>Prof. B.C. Jayawardana, Dean, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka <i>Topic: MSMEs in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Sectors in Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>Mr. Anil Bhardwaj, Secretary General, FISME, India <i>Topic: MSME-to-MSME Linkages: A Federation's Agenda for Cross-Border Cooperation</i></p> <p>Shri V. Vivekanandan, Director, FishMARC, India <i>Topic: Strengthening Coastal Livelihoods through India–Sri Lanka Fisheries Cooperation</i></p> <p>Ms. Chathurika Zoysa, Lecturer, Ocean University of Sri Lanka <i>Topic: Multilateral Frameworks for Sustainable Fisheries</i></p> <p>Mr. Siddhartha Doshi, CEO, Ray Nano Science and Research Centre <i>Topic: Nano Fertilisers and Sustainable Agriculture</i></p> <p>Dr. Buddhi Marambe, Senior Professor, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (Online) <i>Topic: Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security in Sri Lanka</i></p>
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<p><b>6:00pm-6:30pm</b></p> <p><b>Theme:</b></p> <p><i>Forging a Shared Future for India and Sri Lanka</i></p>	<p><b>Valedictory Session</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b></p> <p>Amb. Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha, Former High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka  <i>Topic: Bilateral Relations as a Strategic Investment: A Diplomat's Reflection</i></p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <p>Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy, Former Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka (Online)  <i>Topic: Lessons from the Crisis and the Road to Long-Term Stability</i></p> <p>Prof. Sanjay Kathuria, Former Lead Economist, World Bank (Online)  <i>Topic: Regional Integration in South Asia: A Glass Half Full — and How to Fill It</i></p>
<p><b>6:30pm-6:40pm</b></p>	<p><b>Vote of Thanks</b></p> <p>Dr. Rattan Chand, Founder Director, EGROW Foundation</p>
<p><b>7:00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Dinner @ IIC</b></p>

## CONFERENCE CONVENER



**Dr. Shalini Sharma**

Prof. Shalini Singh Sharma is an economist and policy expert with nearly 30 years of experience in academia and research. A double University Medalist from Punjabi University and Ph.D. from Aligarh Muslim University, she has authored 50+ research papers and presented 75+ papers globally. Currently heading Training & Research at EGROW Foundation, she leads policy studies for government and industry, including MSME research released by Union Minister Piyush Goyal.. Previously, she held leadership roles at MIT WPU, Amity University, Galgotias University, and Sharda University.

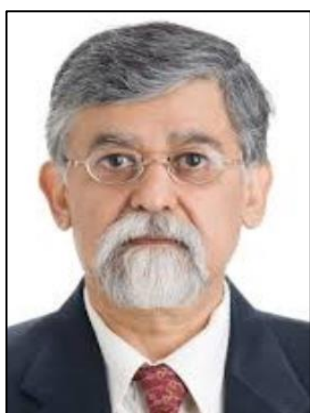
## PROFILE OF SPEAKERS

*(In order of participation in the conference)*



**Dr. Charan Singh**

Dr. Charan Singh, *CEO and Founder Director of EGROW Foundation*. He is member of IRDAI Insurance Advisory Committee. He served as the Non-Executive Chairman of Punjab & Sind Bank and was the RBI Chair Professor of Economics at the renowned Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. Dr. Singh has also held the position of Senior Economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington DC, and was Research Director for Debt Management at the Reserve Bank of India. Additionally, he served as a board member of the National Housing Bank (NHB) and NABFINS.



**Dr. Arvind Virmani**

Dr. Arvind Virmani, *Chairman and Founding Director EGROW, Former Member, NITI Aayog*, is a distinguished economist and policy expert with expertise in macroeconomic policy, finance, and international trade. He has served as Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, Principal Adviser to the Planning Commission, Executive Director at the IMF, and most recently as a full-time Member of NITI Aayog. He also led ICRIER as Director & CEO and held leadership roles in institutions such as EXIM Bank, LIC, SBI Mutual Fund, and Punjab National Bank. Dr. Virmani has made significant contributions to India's economic reforms, trade policy, and financial sector development, and is widely recognized for his work in macroeconomics and public policy.



**Mr. Taranjit Singh Sandhu**

Taranjit Singh Sandhu, is a distinguished Indian diplomat and currently *serves as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi*. A 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, he has over three decades of experience in diplomacy, international relations, and public policy. He previously served as India's Ambassador to the United States and High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, playing a key role in strengthening India's strategic and economic partnerships. During his diplomatic career, he also held several important assignments at the Ministry of External Affairs and India's missions abroad, particularly in Washington, D.C. He is widely recognized for his expertise in foreign policy, diplomacy, and strategic affairs.



**Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna**

Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna is an expert in international trade, economic policy, and sustainable development, currently serving as *Coordinator of DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence* under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. He previously held senior positions at UN ESCAP in New Delhi and Bangkok, and served as Additional Director General at the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Government of India. He has also been Professor & Head at the Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT. With nearly four decades of experience, Dr. Ratna has made significant contributions to trade policy, regional cooperation, WTO issues, and sustainable development across Asia and the Global South.



**Ms. Mahishini Colonne**

Ms. Mahishini Colonne is the *High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India* and a senior career diplomat with over 25 years of experience in multilateral affairs, economic diplomacy, and regional cooperation. Since joining the Sri Lanka Foreign Service in 1998, she has served in key diplomatic assignments including Sri Lanka's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, Deputy High Commissioner in India, and Director at the BIM-STEAC Secretariat in Dhaka. She has also held several senior positions at Sri Lanka's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Additional Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Director General of Economic Affairs. Ms. Colonne has represented Sri Lanka at major international forums including the UN, SAARC, and BIM-STEAC, contributing significantly to regional and international engagement.



**Ms. Aparna Ray**

Ms. Aparna Ray (IFS: 2008) is the *Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs* for the Centre for Contemporary China Studies (CCCS); and, the Policy Planning & Research (PP&R) Divisions. Previously, she served as the Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of India to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva; and, has also held positions at High Commission of India in Islamabad and Embassy of India, Beijing. She has a B.A from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore; and, MPP from the School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University. She speaks English, Hindi, Bengali and Chinese.



**Mr. Vishwesh Negi**

Vishwesh Negi currently serves as *Joint Secretary (Indo-Pacific), Ministry of External Affairs*, Government of India, where he oversees India's strategic engagements in the Indo-Pacific region and cooperation with ASEAN member nations. He plays a key role in advancing India's Indo-Pacific vision, including maritime cooperation, regional security partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives. His work focuses on strengthening India-ASEAN relations, promoting a rules-based maritime order, and enhancing regional connectivity and collaboration. Before joining the MEA Indo-Pacific division, Mr. Negi held senior positions in the Ministry of Defence, including Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), where he worked on defence partnerships, international cooperation, and strategic policy initiatives.



**Dr. Nishan de Mel**

Dr. Nishan de Mel is an economist and public policy expert, currently serving as *Executive Director of Verité Research*, a leading Sri Lankan think tank specializing in economics, governance, and public policy analysis. He has played a significant role in shaping policy discourse in Sri Lanka through research-driven insights on economic reforms, governance, and development. Dr. de Mel has also served as a Member of the Board of the Sri Lanka Foundation. He holds an MPhil and DPhil in Economics from the University of Oxford and a BA (Honours) in Economics from Harvard University. His work focuses on economic policy, governance, and evidence-based public policy research.



**Mr. Afaq Hussain**

Mr. Afaq Hussain is an expert in strategic affairs, economic policy, and industry research. He is currently a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council under the N7 Initiative and serves as *Co-Founder and Director of the Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF)*, a New Delhi-based policy and research organization. He has extensive experience in corporate strategy, policy analysis, and market research, having held leadership positions at organizations including Apollo Munich, IFFCO Tokio General Insurance, and Planman Consulting. Mr. Hussain's work focuses on economic strategy, regional cooperation, international relations, and policy dialogue.



**Dr. Arpita Mukherjee**

Dr. Arpita Mukherjee is a renowned economist and *Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)*, New Delhi. She has over two decades of experience in international economics, trade policy, services sector research, and economic cooperation. She holds a PhD in International Economics from the University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom, and has served on several expert committees and advisory groups under the Government of India, including those related to trade, services exports, and industrial policy. Dr. Mukherjee's research focuses on international trade, services, digital economy, investment policy, and regional economic integration.



**Mr. Talal Rafi**

Mr. Talal Rafi, *Consultant, European Union, Sri Lanka*, is an economist, policy advisor, and global consultant with expertise in macroeconomics, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and economic policy. He is an Expert Member and Agenda Contributor at the World Economic Forum and has worked with organizations including the European Union, Asian Development Bank (ADB), IMF, the World Bank, Deloitte, and Ernst & Young (EY). He currently serves as Economic Policy Advisor to the Opposition Leader of Sri Lanka and has also contributed as a Visiting Lecturer at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the University of Kelaniya. His work focuses on economic reforms, entrepreneurship, sustainability, innovation, and international economic policy.



**Mr. Virender  
Bhardwaj**

Mr. Virender Bhardwaj is a senior business leader in the automotive and industrial sectors, currently serving as *Chief Operating Officer – EV Division at Propel Industries Pvt. Ltd.* With nearly three decades of experience, he has held leadership roles at organizations such as JCB, Volvo, Mahindra & Mahindra, and SML Isuzu. His expertise includes sales and aftersales, product strategy, customer engagement, and business development. At Propel Industries, he is leading the growth and expansion of the company’s EV business, focusing on sustainable and future-ready mobility solutions.



**Mr. Updeep Singh  
Chatrath**

Mr. Updeep Singh Chatrath, *CEO (Odisha Projects) & Resident Director (Delhi), Welspun World*, is a seasoned leader in the textiles and textile machinery industry with extensive experience in manufacturing, industrial development, and business transformation. He has held leadership roles at organizations including Welspun Living, Vardhman Textiles, Sutlej Textiles, Itama India & Bangladesh, and NSL Textiles. He also served as an Independent Director at Vardhman Yarns & Threads Ltd., contributing to global partnerships and corporate governance practices. As Chair of ASSOCHAM’s National Council on Textiles & Technical Textiles, he actively promotes India’s global manufacturing competitiveness and the “Trusted from India” vision. He is recognized for his focus on innovation, sustainability, and the future of manufacturing.



**Mr. Debapriya  
Mukherjee**

Mr. Debapriya Mukherjee is a logistics and supply chain professional currently serving as *Head - International Business, Transport Corporation of India*, with over 15 years of experience, he specializes in business development, EXIM operations, and multimodal logistics across domestic and international markets. Based at TCI’s corporate office in Gurgaon, he leads SAARC and EXIM Support Services, driving business growth across Bangladesh, Nepal, and GCC markets. His expertise spans strategic planning, commercial management, operational execution, and multimodal transport solutions across air, sea, rail, and surface logistics. He also manages cross-functional teams and focuses on scalable logistics solutions that strengthen cross-border connectivity and international trade growth.



**Dr. Anushka  
Wijesinha**

Dr. Anushka Wijesinha, *Co-Founder/Director, Centre for a Smart Future Sri Lanka*, is an economist and public policy expert specializing in international trade, economic policy, innovation, and private sector development. He currently serves on the Governing Board and Monetary Policy Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and is Co-Founder and Director of the Centre for a Smart Future, a public policy think tank. He has worked with organizations such as ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, the World Bank, and Deloitte Consulting, and previously served as Advisor to Sri Lanka's Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade and as Chief Economist at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. His work focuses on economic reforms, trade and investment policy, innovation, and regional economic cooperation.



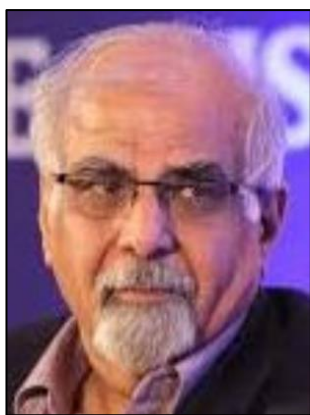
**Mr. M. Raghuraman**

M. Raghuraman (Raghu), President of the Indo Lanka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ILCCI), is a senior apparel industry leader with over 35 years of experience in marketing, branding, manufacturing, and global sourcing. He currently serves as *Consultant to Brandix Apparel, Senior Advisor to AlixPartners, and Director at Luxasia SL*. Previously, he was CEO – Corporate Marketing at Brandix, where he led strategic branding, customer acquisition, and partnerships with global brands such as Uniqlo and PVH Inc. He has also held leadership roles at MAS Holdings and apparel organizations in Kenya. Raghu holds a Bachelor of Economics from Loyola College, University of Madras, and received the Loyola Global Excellence Award 2025 for his contributions to marketing, branding, and regional business collaboration.



**Mr. Dhananath  
Fernando**

Mr. Dhananath Fernando is the *Chief Executive Officer of Advocata Institute*, a Sri Lanka-based public policy think tank, and a founding member of the organization. Prior to this, he worked as Associate Research Director at Breakthrough Business Intelligence, a leading market research agency in Sri Lanka. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Bio Sciences and Bio Chemistry from the University of Colombo and is an Eisenhower Global Fellow. He also serves as a member of TikTok's Trust & Safety Advisory Council for South Asia. Mr. Fernando's work focuses on public policy, economic reforms, governance, and civic engagement. He is also actively involved in social initiatives, youth development, and literary and community programs in Sri Lanka.



**Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla**

Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla, *Former ED, IMF*, is a noted economist, author, and policy expert, and a former member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Economic Advisory Council. He has also served as Economic Adviser to the Fifteenth Finance Commission and Chairperson of the Ministry of Commerce High Level Advisory Group on Trade. Founder-Chairman of Oxus Research & Investments, he has worked with leading global institutions including the World Bank, Brookings Institution, RAND Corporation, Deutsche Bank, and Goldman Sachs. Dr. Bhalla is a prolific author and columnist with extensive contributions to economics, globalization, public policy, and financial markets. He holds a PhD in Economics from Princeton University and is widely recognized for his work in economic policy and international finance.



**Mr. Hasitha Premaratne**

Hasitha Premaratne is the *Managing Director of the Brandix Group*, leading its global business operations while driving the company's overall strategy and transformation initiatives. Prior to this role, he served as Group Finance Director and Chief Strategy Officer of the Group. He is a Director of several Brandix Group subsidiaries and investment ventures, including Teejay Lanka PLC, and also serves on the boards of listed companies in Sri Lanka and internationally. Hasitha has contributed to professional and business institutions including CIMA Sri Lanka and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. He holds an MBA in International Finance and is a Fellow Member of CIMA (UK), ACCA (UK), and CMA (Sri Lanka).



**Prof. Biswajit Nag**

Prof. Biswajit Nag is a *Professor at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)*, New Delhi, with extensive experience in international economics, trade policy, and econometrics. He has been associated with IIFT for over two decades, serving as Professor and Associate Professor in the field of international trade and business. He holds a PhD in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. His areas of expertise include international trade, regional economic integration, trade policy, and quantitative economic analysis. Prof. Nag's research focuses on international economics, trade negotiations, and economic policy, and he has contributed extensively to academic research and policy discussions on global trade and development.



**Dr. Nisha Taneja**

Dr. Nisha Taneja is a *Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi*, and a leading expert in international trade, regional economic cooperation, and public policy. She has been associated with ICRIER for over three decades, serving in various research and academic positions. She holds a PhD in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, and a Master's degree in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics. Her research focuses on trade policy, South Asian economic integration, connectivity, and regional cooperation. Dr. Taneja is widely recognized for her contributions to policy-oriented research on international trade and economic relations in South Asia.



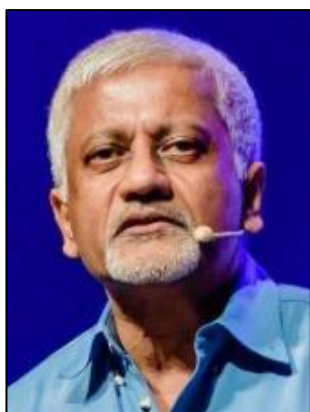
**Mr. Thilan  
Wijesinghe**

Mr. Thilan Wijesinghe, *Former Chairman, Board of Investment, Sri Lanka*, is a prominent Sri Lankan business leader, entrepreneur, and policy expert with extensive experience in investment banking, real estate, and public policy. He was the youngest-ever Chairman of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka and has led major business ventures including Asian Hotels Properties PLC and Overseas Realty PLC. He also co-founded institutions such as SLIIT and Ceylon Tea Trails Resort. From 2017 to 2019, he served as the founding Chairman of Sri Lanka's National Agency for Public Private Partnership. Currently, he is Chairman and owner of TWC Holdings and serves on the board of Ventive Hospitality Ltd, India.



**Mr. Saliya  
Wickramasuriya**

Saliya Wickramasuriya, *Former Chairman, BOI, Sri Lanka*, is an experienced leader in the energy, infrastructure, and investment sectors with expertise in oil and gas operations, maritime logistics, and economic development. He has served as Chairman of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC), Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Ltd. (CPSTL), Trinco Petroleum Terminals Pvt. Ltd., and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. He has also held leadership roles at the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka and the Petroleum Development Authority of Sri Lanka. In addition, he has worked as an independent consultant with organizations such as Schlumberger and the World Bank. Saliya is widely recognized for his contributions to Sri Lanka's energy, logistics, and investment sectors.



**Prof. Rohan Samarajiva**

Prof. Rohan Samarajiva is a leading policy expert in telecommunications, digital infrastructure, and economic reform, currently serving as *Chair of LIRNEasia*, a leading Asia-Pacific policy think tank. With over three decades of experience in ICT regulation, public policy, and infrastructure governance, he has played a key role in digital and regulatory reforms in Sri Lanka and across the region. He previously served as Chair of the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka and Director General of the Telecom Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka. Prof. Samarajiva has also held academic positions at Ohio State University and Delft University of Technology, and has advised governments and international institutions on ICT policy, digital governance, and regional connectivity initiatives.



**Mr. Anuj Jain**

Mr. Anuj Jain is *Director (Finance) & CFO at Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)*, with over three decades of experience in finance, international trade, supply chain management, treasury, and corporate affairs. He has played a key role in driving IOCL's financial strategy, energy transition initiatives, and global partnerships. Previously, he served as CFO of Lanka IOC PLC and has held several senior leadership positions within IOCL. He currently serves on the boards of multiple Indian Oil subsidiaries and joint ventures. A Chartered Accountant and Company Secretary, Mr. Jain is widely recognized for his contributions to financial management, strategic planning, and India's energy sector.



**Mr. Nimal S. Cooke**

Nimal S. Cooke is a senior business executive with extensive experience in finance, infrastructure development, mining & minerals and renewable energy. He currently serves as *Executive Director of the Capital Maharaja Group of Companies*, where he has played a key role in business development initiatives for over five decades. A qualified member of the Institute of Cost & Management Accountants (FCMA), he began his professional career with Recki & Colman and later worked with Ceylon Tobacco Company. Mr. Cooke has also served as Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Sri Lanka (AmCham), contributing significantly to strengthening business and commercial engagement. He is recognized for his expertise in corporate management, infrastructure projects, and strategic business development.



**Mr. Arvind Singh**

Mr. Arvind Singh is a *former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer* and has served as Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and the Delhi School of Economics. Over his distinguished administrative career, he has held several key positions in the Government of Maharashtra and the Government of India. He has earlier served as Chairman of the Airports Authority of India and as Minister (Economic & Commercial) at the Embassy of India in Tokyo. Mr. Singh has attended executive and mid-career training programmes at Harvard University and the Graduate Institute, Geneva.



**Prof. Ganesh  
Lakshmanan**

Prof. Ganesh Lakshmanan is a *Professor in the Strategy & Leadership Area at CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru*, with over 28 years of academic and industry experience. His expertise includes strategic management, leadership, business analytics, design thinking, and health management. He has contributed significantly to AACSB accreditation initiatives, guided doctoral and M.Phil scholars, published in reputed journals, and conducted workshops and training programs across India. He has also served as a Board of Studies member, academic advisor, and examiner, supporting curriculum development and academic quality enhancement.



**Mr. Srilal  
Miththapala**

Mr. Srilal Miththapala is a *tourism and sustainability expert* with over three decades of experience in Sri Lanka's hospitality industry. He has held senior leadership positions with leading hospitality groups including Confifi Group and Serendib Group, where he led initiatives in hotel refurbishment, repositioning, and branding. He also served as Director and Consultant at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, leading the EU-funded "Greening Sri Lanka Hotels" project to promote sustainability in the tourism sector. Mr. Miththapala has been President of the Tourist Hotels Association of Sri Lanka and has worked with organizations including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). His work focuses on sustainable tourism, hospitality management, and tourism policy.



**Prof. Ramesh Chand**

Prof. Ramesh Chand is a *leading agricultural economist and former Member of NITI Aayog*. With over 30 years of experience, his expertise spans agricultural policy, food security, rural development, and policy reforms. He previously served as Director of the National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NIAP) and held senior academic positions at Delhi University and Punjab Agricultural University. He has also worked with international organizations including the World Bank, FAO, UNDP, and UNCTAD. Prof. Chand has authored several books and over 100 research papers, and has received prestigious honors including the Jawaharlal Nehru Award and the Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Award.



**Prof. Ashok Vishandass**

Dr. Ashok Vishandass, *Former Chairman, CACP*, has an experience of over four decades in the realm of policy formulation in various Ministries/Departments of Government of India in different positions such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare at the level of Secretary to Government of India. He has also served as the Chief Adviser to FAO of the United Nations Organisation. Prof. Ashok has made a pioneering contribution in formulation of pricing and non-pricing agriculture policies. His areas of interest include Agriculture, Food Security, Official Statistics, International Trade and Commerce. Prof. Ashok holds Ph.D. (Economics), M.A. (Economics), M.B.A. (Financial Management), PG Diploma in Population and Development (NU), M. Stat. (Master of Statistics) (Gold Medalist).



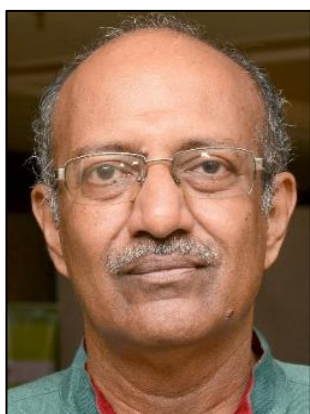
**Prof. B.C. Jayawardana**

Prof. B.C. Jayawardana is a distinguished academic and researcher in animal science, currently serving as *Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka*. He has contributed extensively to agricultural education, animal science, meat science, and food safety research. He holds a BSc in Agriculture specializing in Animal Science from the University of Peradeniya and a Ph.D. in Food Hygiene from Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Japan. He previously served as Head of the Department of Animal Science and continues to play an active role in teaching and research. His research focuses on animal reproduction, poultry nutrition, meat science, and food safety, and he is widely recognized for his leadership in advancing agricultural research and sustainable animal production.



**Mr. Anil Bhardawaj**

Anil Bhardawaj, *Secretary General of the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME)*, is an expert in MSME development, private sector growth, and trade policy with over 30 years of experience. He has led major MSME initiatives supported by organizations such as the World Bank, UNDP, UNIDO, UNCTAD, ADB, and ILO. He has contributed extensively to industrial policy, entrepreneurship development, and SME promotion, while authoring several publications on MSME issues. Mr. Bhardawaj serves on various advisory committees linked to NITI Aayog and the Ministries of MSME and Commerce & Industry, and has also held leadership roles with institutions such as EDII, BIS, and QCI.



**Mr. V. Vivekanandan**

V. Vivekanandan, *Director, Fisheries Management Resource Centre, India* is a fisheries expert with over four decades of experience in sustainable fisheries management and fisher livelihoods. After graduating in Mechanical Engineering from Madras University and completing a Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management from IRMA, he joined the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) in 1982. He played a key role in developing livelihood services for small-scale fishers, including fish marketing, financial services, and technology support. He later established the Fisheries Management Resource Centre (Fish-MARC), focusing on community-based fisheries management and women fish vendors' livelihoods. He has also worked as an FAO-UN Consultant and contributed extensively to India-Sri Lanka dialogue on transborder fishing issues in the Palk Bay.



**Ms. Chathurika Zoysa**

Ms. Chathurika Lakshi Zoysa is a *lecturer and researcher at the Ocean University of Sri Lanka*, specializing in fisheries and marine sciences, coastal geomorphology, and sustainable marine resource management. Her academic work focuses on fisheries ecology, coastal biodiversity, marine ecosystems, and the socio-economic conditions of fishing communities in Sri Lanka. She teaches courses related to fisheries management, coastal and marine geomorphology, and aquaculture, while also supervising students in marine science and fisheries studies. Ms. Zoysa is recognized for her contributions to applied marine science and sustainable fisheries research in Sri Lanka.



**Mr. Siddhartha Doshi**

Siddhartha Doshi is a business leader and innovator in nanotechnology, currently serving as CEO & Managing Partner of Ray Nano Science and Research Centre. He is recognized for leading the development of Nano Urea, making Ray Nano Science the first private startup in India to launch this pioneering nano-fertilizer technology. Under his leadership, the company has developed nano-based solutions across agriculture, polymers, automotive, nutraceuticals, and animal husbandry. His work focuses on sustainable agriculture and advanced nutrient delivery systems supporting India's food and fertilizer security. He and his team received the National Innovation Award from the Government of India for contributions to nanotechnology and agricultural innovation.



**Prof. Buddhi Marambe**

Prof. Buddhi Marambe is a Senior Professor at the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and serves as Director of the Agriculture Education Unit. His expertise includes weed science, climate change adaptation, and food security. He has received several prestigious honors, including the International Weed Science Society's Lifetime Achievement Award (2022), the Presidential Award, and the National Research Council (NRC) Merit Award for scientific research in Sri Lanka. Prof. Marambe is also a member of Sri Lanka's government delegation to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), contributing to international climate negotiations since 2013.



**Amb. Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha**

Shri Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha is a *senior Indian diplomat and former High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka (2013–2016)*, with over 37 years of experience in the Indian Foreign Service. During his career, he served as Consul General of India in Dubai, Ambassador to Venezuela, and High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. He also headed the Pakistan- Afghanistan-Iran (PAI) Division in the Ministry of External Affairs. He later served as Chief Information Commissioner of India. In Sri Lanka, he played a key role in strengthening bilateral political, economic, and cultural relations between India and Sri Lanka. Sinha holds degrees in History from St. Stephen's College and the University of Delhi, along with an advanced diploma in Arabic from the American University in Cairo.



**Dr. Indrajit  
Coomaraswamy**

Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy is a distinguished Sri Lankan economist and *former Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (2016–2019)*, with over four decades of experience in economic policy and public administration. He began his career at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and later held senior roles at the Commonwealth Secretariat, advising on macroeconomic and structural reforms. He also served in corporate governance positions at leading Sri Lankan companies and financial institutions. As Central Bank Governor, he focused on restoring institutional credibility, strengthening monetary policy, and supporting economic stabilization efforts. He was recognized as “Central Bank Governor of the Year – South Asia” in 2017. Beyond economics, he also captained the Sri Lanka rugby team and played cricket for Cambridge University.



**Prof. Sanjay Kathuria**

Sanjay Kathuria is a noted economist and former Lead Economist at the World Bank, recognized for his contributions to South Asian economic integration and regional development. During his 27-year career at the World Bank, he worked across South Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America, including assignments in New Delhi and Dhaka. He is currently associated with institutions such as the Wilson Center, Centre for Policy Research (India), and the Institute of South Asian Studies in Singapore. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and visiting faculty at Ashoka University. Kathuria holds a master’s degree in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics and MPhil and PhD degrees from Oxford University.



**Dr. Rattan Chand**

Dr. Rattan Chand is a founding Director of the EGROW Foundation and a former officer of the Indian Statistical Service with over 35 years of experience in public policy, health systems, and official statistics. He has played a key role in major health and population initiatives, including the Health Management Information System (HMIS), Annual Health Surveys, District Level Household Surveys, and the National Family Health Survey (NFHS). He has also collaborated with international organizations such as the World Bank, WHO, USAID, and the United Nations. Dr. Chand specializes in population studies, health policy, and applied statistics, and holds advanced degrees from IIPS Mumbai, JNU, and Panjab University.

## **Foundation for Economic Growth and Welfare (EGROW)**

The Foundation for Economic Growth and Welfare (EGROW Foundation) is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary public policy organization engaged in independent, high-quality research in the areas of macroeconomic policy, public welfare, national security and diplomacy.

EGROW Foundation, established on Oct 31, 2018, is a policy-oriented think-tank in NCR, India. The vision of EGROW is to be a premier think tank globally, showcasing India's research while contributing to the formation of sound public policies, especially in India and the region. The aim of EGROW is to provide research-based support to policy making.

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- Shadow Monetary Policy – Bimonthly.
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*Senior Strategy Advisor, Zydus Cadila Healthcare Group and Jubilant Bhartia Group*
- Mr. Gulshan Malik  
*Former DMD, State Bank of India*
- Prof. Ramesh Yadava  
*Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship, BIT Sindri & Jharkhand University of Technology*

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Policy Planning & Research Division  
**Ministry of External Affairs**  
Government of India

