

The Indian Society of Labour Economics

The Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE) is a professional association of researchers, scholars and other stakeholders interested in the area of labour, employment and development issues. The Society promotes scientific studies of labour markets, employment, employment relations and related issues and disseminates knowledge. It publishes a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal The Indian Journal of Labour Economics (IJLE), which is now in its 69th year of publication. Promoting and featuring scientific studies on labour and employment issues, the journal is co-published with Springer. More information on the journal is available on <http://www.springer.com/economics/journal/41027>



THE INDIAN SOCIETY OF LABOUR ECONOMICS

C/o Institute for Human Development

256, 2nd Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-III, New Delhi-110020, India

Phone: 011-41064679; Mobile: +91-9871177540

Email: mail@isleijle.org; Website: www.isleijle.org

Daffodil Graphics #8368564419, 9313726383



॥वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्॥

6th THE INDIAN SOCIETY OF LABOUR ECONOMICS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

19-21 January 2026 | Symbiosis School of Economics, Symbiosis International (Deemed) University, Pune, India

Dialogue on **Growth that Works: Employment, Inclusion and Sustainability in The Global South**

19 January 2026 | Pune



About the Dialogue

Growth that Works: Employment, Inclusion and Sustainability in The Global South

Background

Growth in the Global South may be more appropriately conceptualized as a political-economic project that prioritizes employment generation, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability, rather than viewing GDP expansion as an end in itself. Despite hosting the majority of the world's population and labour force, the Global South continues to generate a disproportionately small share of global income, reflecting deep structural imbalances in the organisation of work, opportunity, and value creation. These imbalances are manifested in the widespread normalisation of informal employment, persistent inequalities rooted in social and spatial hierarchies, and heightened vulnerability to climate change—revealing the limits of growth models detached from questions of decent work, justice, and ecological resilience.

This plenary dialogue with three well known development economists examines how pathways of growth in the Global South can be reoriented to deliver employment-intensive, inclusive, and sustainable outcomes. The session will deliberate on the policy interventions, strategies, reforms required to build a society where growth trajectories can be aligned with decent work, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability, ensuring that the future of work is not only productive, but also equitable and resilient.

Some issues for discussions include:

- Why has growth in the Global South so often failed to translate into decent jobs?



- Is informality a transitional problem—or a permanent feature of current growth models?
- Which growth strategy has delivered the best employment outcomes in the Global South and why?
- What institutional weakness most undermines inclusive, job-rich growth today?
- Can countries pursue green growth without sacrificing employment—or is a trade-off inevitable?
- If growth must “work” for people, what must change first in current development strategies?



Programme

MONDAY, 19 JANUARY 2026

- Moderator : **Alakh N. Sharma**
Director, IHD and President, ISLE
- Panelists : **Deepak Nayyar**
Emeritus Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University;
Former Vice Chancellor, Delhi University
- : **Finn Tarp**
Professor, Department of Economics, Development
Economics Research Group, University of
Copenhagen
- : **Imraan Valodia**
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Director, Southern Centre
for Inequality Studies (SCIS), University of the
Witwatersrand (WITS), South Africa



Biographies of the Resource Persons

Alakh N Sharma



Alakh N Sharma is currently Professor and Director of the Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi. A senior development economist, Professor Sharma has extensively worked in the areas of livelihoods, political economy, employment, labour markets and related issues. During his academic career spanning over 40 years, he has directed more than 40 research projects in the above areas and he has authored /edited/co-edited 18 books and published over 60 research papers in various reputed journals. He currently serves as the President of ISLE.

Professor Nayyar



Deepak Nayyar is Emeritus Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and an Honorary Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford. Earlier, he taught at the University of Oxford, the University of Sussex, and the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta. He served as Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi from 2000 to 2005. He was Distinguished University Professor of Economics at the New School for Social Research, New York, from 2008 to 2012.

Professor Nayyar is Chairman of the Sameeksha Trust, which publishes Economic and Political Weekly. He is, at present, Chairman of the Board for the Institute of Human Development, New Delhi. He was Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, from 2014 to 2025. He was also President of the Indian Society for Labour Economics from 2014 to 2025. He has also served as a Director on the Board of several firms in the corporate sector in India: Press Trust of India, Oil and



Natural Gas Corporation, Steel Authority of India, ICRA (Indian Credit Rating Agency), Maruti Udyog, Export-Import Bank of India, State Bank of India, and State Trading Corporation of India. He was educated at St. Stephen's College and the Delhi School of Economics. Thereafter, as a Rhodes Scholar, he went on to study at Balliol College, University of Oxford, where he obtained a B. Phil and a D. Phil in Economics. He has received the VKRV Rao award for his contribution to research in Economics, and the Malcolm Adiseshiah award for his lifetime contribution to Development Studies.

Finn Tarp



Finn Tarp, a development economist, is a University of Copenhagen (UCPH) Professor and Coordinator of the UCPH Development Economics Research Group (DERG). Formerly the Director of UNU-WIDER (2009–18) he is a leading international academic and policy expert on issues of development strategy and foreign aid, with extensive research in poverty, inequality, agricultural sector policy and planning, household and enterprise development, and climate change, sustainability and natural resources. His publications include more than 140 articles in internationally refereed academic journals, including top journals such as *The Economic Journal*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *World Bank Economic Review*, *European Economic Review*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *World Development*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, *Land Economics*, *Food Policy*, *Review of Income and Wealth*, *Journal of Economic Geography*, *Feminist Economics*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Journal of Development Studies*, and *Climatic Change* as well as regional journals including for example *Journal of African Economies*, *South African Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Asian Economics* and *China Economic Review* – alongside six books, thirty edited book volumes/special journal issues, seventy-three book chapters with leading international academic publishers plus a very large number of research reports and other studies and publications. He has extensive research and policy advisory background in countries such as Mozambique, Vietnam, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Myanmar. His h-index is 73.



Imraan Valodia



Imraan Valodia is Professor of Economics; Pro Vice-Chancellor: Climate, Sustainability and Inequality; and Director of the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (WITS). His research interests include: inequality, climate justice, competition policy and industrial development and employment in developing countries.

Professor Valodia played a leading role in establishing and leading Wits University's Southern Centre for Inequality Studies (SCIS). The SCIS is a multi-disciplinary, cross-country initiative to promote research and policy change to advance greater equality. Professor Valodia serves on a number of national committees in South Africa, including the Competition Tribunal; the Presidential Economic Advisory Council; and the National Minimum Wage Commission; and is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (Assaf) Standing Committee on Science for the Reduction of Poverty and Inequality. Internationally, Professor Valodia serves on the following boards: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD); UNAIDS Global Council on Inequality, AIDS and Pandemics; Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO); and the Global Development Institute.

