

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

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A Plenary Panel during
66th ISLE Conference

Artificial Intelligence for Development

Organised by



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development implications of AI as a general-purpose technology (GPT) and assess the best policy choices to leverage the benefits of AI while offsetting potential risks. In doing so, it will focus on the institutional and governance arrangements needed to ensure inclusive and responsible deployment of AI. In studying the development implications of AI deployment, the report will focus on impacts on jobs, productivity, human capital, and the delivery of public services.



Programme

TUESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2026

- Moderator : **Gaurav Nayyar**
Director, World Development Report 2026
Artificial Intelligence for Development, World Bank
- Panelists : **Ashok Panda**
Vice President and Global Head, AI and Automation
Services, Infosys Limited
- : **Gaurav Nayyar**
Director, World Development Report 2026
Artificial Intelligence for Development, World Bank
- : **Franziska Ohnsorge**
Chief Economist for South Asia
World Bank



Biographies of the Resource Persons



Ashok Panda

Vice President and Global Head, AI and Automation Services, Infosys Limited

As the Global Head of AI & Automation Services at Infosys, Dr. Ashok leads the firm's vision to help enterprises unlock the full potential of AI. With 28 years in IT and business consulting, his journey began as an SAP consultant and evolved into driving large-scale transformation programs for Fortune 500 clients across industries like manufacturing, retail, and life sciences. At Infosys, Mr. Panda founded the Topaz Center of Excellence, which helps enterprises discover and scale AI responsibly. In Topaz, his team has created Infosys Agnetic Foundry, reimaged services, and built industry-specific playbooks that turn AI and Generative AI into tangible business outcomes. He is also responsible for strategic partnerships between Infosys and AI players such as NVIDIA, AMD, Intel, Meta, Microsoft, Google, AWS, IBM, start-ups and academia. Mr. Panda holds a BTech in Production Engineering and Management from the NIT-Jamshedpur.





Gaurav Nayyar

Economic Adviser and Director
World Development Report 2026, World Bank.

Dr. Gaurav Nayyar is the Director of the 2026 World Development Report on Artificial Intelligence for Development. Previously, he was a Lead Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist in the Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions Vice Presidency at the World Bank, which he joined as a Young Professional in 2013. Prior to joining the Bank, he was an Economics Affairs Officer in the Economic Research Division of the World Trade Organization, where he co-led the World Trade Report 2013, *Factors Shaping the Future of World Trade*. Gaurav's research interests lie primarily in the areas of economic growth, structural transformation, trade, industrialization, and firm productivity, and He has published in a variety of academic journals on these issues. Gaurav holds a DPhil in Economics from the University of Oxford, where he was a Dorothy Hodgkin Scholar. His other alma maters include the London School of Economics and Political Science, the University of Cambridge, and St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi.





Franziska Ohnsorge

Chief Economist, South Asia Region, The World Bank

Dr. Franziska Ohnsorge is the World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia. In this role, she is responsible for leading the research program on key economic issues in South Asia to inform the policy debate and World Bank lending. Before starting this position, she was the Manager at the Development Economics Vice Presidency where she spearheaded the flagship Global Economic Prospects report. Prior to joining the World Bank, Dr. Franziska Ohnsorge worked in the Office of the Chief Economist of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and at the International Monetary Fund. Her research has been featured in peer-reviewed journals as well as policy publications and has covered a wide range of topics in international macroeconomics and finance, including debt and financial crises, inflation and monetary policy, as well as growth and informal labor markets. Her work has been widely cited, including in the Economist, the Wall Street Journal, and the Financial Times. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto.

