



THE JINDAL
POLICY CONCLAVE



Programme Schedule



THE JINDAL
POLICY CONCLAVE



INCEPTION OF IDEAS FOR VIKSIT BHARAT

September 19 & 20, 2025
O.P Jindal Global University
Sonipat, Haryana

Friday, September 19th, 2025 - 0900 to 1915
Saturday, September 20th, 2025 - 0900 to 1830

Concept Note

Public policy is the guiding compass of a nation's soul—a meticulously crafted instrument channeling collective aspirations into transformative action. In India, it is evolving into a powerful, multidimensional force at the heart of democratic governance. Awakened with immediacy and promise, public policy in India gains unprecedented relevance in an era defined by complexity, scale, and global interdependence, transcending administrative silos to expand across disciplines, ideas, and identities. As India approaches its centenary of independence in 2047, public policy has assumed a central role in shaping the nation's developmental trajectory. It has become a living tapestry—intricately woven from the threads of economics, law, technology, ethics, governance, and politics—where each strand is essential and each decision consequential.

The Jindal School of Government and Public Policy (JSGP) pioneered public policy education in India when the field was still emerging in academia, establishing public policy as both a rigorous academic discipline and a driver of social impact. Today, JSGP stands as a premier institution, rooted in critical thinking, interdisciplinary research, and ethical leadership, preparing students and professionals to address real-world challenges with evidence-based policy frameworks to meet real-world challenges.

Today, JSGP is again at the forefront of India's vibrant and evolving policy ecosystem. In line with its mission, the Jindal Policy Conclave 2025 aims to bring together thought leaders, policymakers, academics, scholars, industry experts, and emerging policy professionals for a focused dialogue on India's future, fostering a powerful nexus between these sectors.

As India stands on the brink of a new era of development, the theme “The Inception of Ideas for Viksit Bharat” takes on profound urgency, reflecting a clear intent: to shape its future through actionable ideas and collective engagement. As a platform for orchestrating change and envisioning policies, the Conclave will serve as a vibrant forum to confront key policy challenges—from climate resilience and technological sovereignty to inclusive governance and India's global leadership, which will help forge a path for India's advancement in the years leading up to 2047.

“Public policy must empower citizens and bridge the gap between governance and the people, fostering inclusive growth and sustainability. It is through visionary policies that we create a future where every individual thrives and contributes to nation-building.” This conclave embodies that vision—not just as an event, but as the beginning of a movement. The inception of ideas. The inception of action. The inception of Viksit Bharat.

Itinerary

Day 1 Friday, 19th September, 2025

0900Hrs - 19:15Hrs

09:00 - 09:30 | Registrations and Networking; Gate 1, O.P. Jindal Global University

09:00 - 10:30 | **Opening Ceremony & Inaugural Address**, Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

- Welcome Address – **Mr. Agni Tejas**, Student, MA Public Policy 2024-25
- Address by the Registrar - **Professor Dabiru Sridhar Patnaik**, Professor and Registrar, O.P. Jindal Global University
- Address by **Professor R. Sudarshan**, Professor and Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy
- Inaugural Address “India and the World” by **Mr. Manish Tewari**, Former Union Minister and Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha
- Concept Note by **Mr. Modit Sharda**, BA (Hons) Economics 2023-24
- Concluding Remarks - **Professor (Dr.) Namesh Killemsetty**, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

10:30 - 11:30 | Tea Break & Networking

11:30 - 13:00 | **Panel 1:** *Electoral Reforms: India’s Power Play in Redrawing Boundaries & Redefining Elections*; Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

13:00 - 14:30 | **Panel 2:** *One Earth, One Family, One Future: India’s Greenprint for Energy Revolution, Climate Resilience & Environment Revival*; Jindal School of Government & Public Policy, Performing Arts Academy, First Floor, Prithviraj Jindal Academic Block

13:00 - 14:30 | **Panel 3:** *Rewiring Urban Governance: Fixing the Core Beyond Rhetoric – Streets, Sanitation, and Services as the New Urban Mandate*; Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

14:30 - 15:30 | Lunch Break, (3rd & 5th Floor), T6 Dining Block

15:30 - 16:30 | **Keynote Address**; Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

- Opening Remarks and Introduction of the Speaker: **Professor R. Sudarshan**, Professor and Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy
- **Keynote Address:** *The Significance of Part IV of the Constitution - The Directive Principles of State Policy in building Viksit Bharat* by **Hon’ble Mr. Justice U.U. Lalit**, Former Chief Justice of India

- **Closing Remarks: Professor (Dr.) Naveen Thomas**, Vice Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

16:30 - 18:00 | Panel 4: *From Representation to Leadership: The Changing Phase of Women in Politics*; Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

18:00 - 18:30 | Tea Break & Networking

18:30 - 19:15 | *Snehabhavam*: An Indian Classical dance and music fusion by Thadeem, JGU; Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

End of Day 1

Itinerary

Day 2 Saturday, 20th September, 2025 0900Hrs - 18:30Hrs

09:00 - 10:00 | Registrations; Gate 1, O.P. Jindal Global University

10:15 - 11:15 | **Plenary Session: Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block**

- Opening Remarks and Introduction of the Speaker: **Professor R. Sudarshan**, Professor and Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy
- Plenary Session: **Screens, Stories and Regulation: Charting India's Media and Entertainment Landscape** by **Ms. Mahima Kaul**, Director of Public Policy & Global Affairs, Netflix
- Closing Remarks: **Professor (Dr.) Tarun Arora**, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

11:30 - 13:00 | **Panel 5:** *The Aspirational Majority: Charting India's Middle-Class Transition and Economic Modernisation*; Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

13:00 - 14:00 | Lunch Break, (3rd and 5th Floor), T6 Dining Block

14:00 - 15:30 | **Panel 6:** *Beyond Doctrine: Whole of Government approach as the future of Indian war-fighting*; Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

15:30 - 17:00 | **Panel 7:** *Reimagining Social Justice: Caste Census, Reservation and Affirmative Action*; Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

15:30 - 17:00 | **Panel 8:** *Healthcare Revolution: India's Path to Universal Healthcare Access*; Imaginarium, Savitri Jindal Faculty Office Block

17:00 - 17:30 | Tea Break & Networking

17:30 - 18:30 | **Valedictory Ceremony; Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block**

- Opening Remarks by **Professor (Dr.) Gurpreet Singh**, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy
- Introduction of the Speaker: **Professor Dabiru Sridhar Patnaik**, Professor and Registrar, O.P. Jindal Global University

- Valedictory Address - “We the Nation Builders” by **Mr. Armstrong Pame**, Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block
- Concluding Remarks: **Professor R. Sudarshan**, Professor and Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy
- Vote of Thanks by Student Coordinators

End of Day 2

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 | 9:00 - 10:30 | Inauguration, Jindal Policy Conclave 2025 - Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

Inaugural Address - “India and The World”

Mr. Manish Tewari, Former Union Minister of India, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha

Day 1 | 11:30 - 13:00 | Panel 1 - Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

Electoral Reforms: India’s Power Play in Redrawing Boundaries & Redefining Elections

The upcoming 2026 delimitation exercise will redraw electoral boundaries to reflect demographic shifts, carrying profound implications for representation across regions, communities, and federal balance.

This panel asks:

- How can delimitation strengthen both equity and representation?
- Can the principle of “one person, one vote” adapt to India’s diverse realities?
- How can reforms expand participation while preserving federal balance?

Panel

Prof. Sanjay Kumar

Professor and Co-Director of Lokniti, New Delhi

Mr. Ashoka Lavasa

Former IAS,
Former Election Commissioner,
Former Finance Secretary, Government of India

Mr. Saravanan Annadurai

Independent Legal Practitioner, Madras High Court
National Spokesperson, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)

Mr. Pradeep Bhandari

Journalist, Politician, News anchor, and Psephologist
National Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Jan Ki Baat

Mr. Harish Balayogi

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha from Amalapuram, Andhra Pradesh
Party Member, Telugu Desam Party (TDP)

Moderator

Ms. Pallavi Ghosh

Senior Broadcast Journalist, CNN News 18

Day 1 | 13:00 - 14:30 | Panel 2 - Performing Arts Academy, First Floor, Prithviraj Jindal Academic Block

One Earth, One Family, One Future: India's Greenprint for Energy Revolution, Climate Resilience & Environment Revival

India stands at the crossroads of growth and sustainability, balancing the energy needs of 1.4 billion people with climate commitments. With ambitious targets of net-zero by 2070, 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030, and schemes like the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. India is emerging as a global innovator in clean energy and resilience. Yet, continued coal dependence, financing challenges, and ensuring a just transition highlight the complexity of the journey ahead. These choices will shape India's energy landscape and its leadership in sustainable development.

This panel asks:

- How can India balance energy security with its climate commitments?
- What role can rooftop solar and decentralized renewables play in democratizing access?
- How can the country finance a just transition that protects vulnerable communities?
- Can India's green growth model inspire the Global South?

Panel

Prof. (Dr.) Krishna Raj

Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Policy (CESP), Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), RBI Chair, Bengaluru

Mr. Venugopal Mothkoor

Senior Energy & Climate Modelling Specialist at NITI Aayog

Mr. Harpreet Singh

Programme Lead, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), New Delhi

Moderator

Prof. (Dr.) Pradeep Guin

Professor and Associate Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, JGU

Day 1 | 13:00 - 14:30 | Panel 3 - Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

Rewiring Urban Governance: Fixing the Core Beyond Rhetoric – Streets, Sanitation, and Services as the New Urban Mandate

By 2036, India's cities will house nearly 600 million people and drive over 70% of GDP, yet face fragile infrastructure, weak finances, and rising climate risks. Flagship schemes like Smart Cities and Swachh Bharat have made progress, but most urban bodies remain dependent and underpowered. Citizen-led innovations show promise, but the key challenge is rewiring urban governance to make cities resilient, inclusive, and globally competitive.

This panel asks:

- What reforms in finance, planning, and capacity are needed to strengthen urban local bodies?
- How can citizen participation and civic innovation be scaled without compromising accountability?
- What new governance models can help cities meet emerging challenges of climate resilience, housing, and mobility?
- How can Indian cities balance growth with inclusivity and sustainability by 2030?

Panel

Dr. Debolina Kundu

Director at the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), New Delhi

Dr. D. Dhanuraj

Founder-Chairman, Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Kochi

Mr. Pushyamitra Bhargav

Politician, lawyer, and social activist

Mayor of Indore

Moderator

Prof. (Dr.) Tarun Arora

Associate Professor & Associate Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, JGU

Day 1 | 15:30 - 16:30 | Keynote Address, Jindal Policy Conclave 2025 - *The Significance of Part IV of the Constitution - The Directive Principles of State Policy in building Viksit Bharat* by Hon'ble Mr. Justice U.U. Lalit, Former Chief Justice of India

Day 1 | 16:30 - 18:00 | Panel 4 - Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

From Representation to Leadership: The Changing Phase of Women in Politics

Women have shaped India's political landscape from the freedom struggle to today, yet remain underrepresented in legislatures. The Women's Reservation Bill (33% seats) marks a historic step, but translating numbers into real leadership requires structural reforms, mentorship, safe political spaces, and societal support. Inclusive governance is essential for India's democratic and developmental goals.

This panel asks:

- How can representation become effective leadership?
- What reforms can empower women within parties and institutions?
- How can women's participation strengthen inclusive governance?

Panel

Ms. Vanathi Srinivasan

Politician & Lawyer

Member from Coimbatore South, Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu

National President, Mahila Morcha, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

Ms. Raksha Khadse

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha from Raver, Maharashtra

Ms. Atishi Marlena

Leader of the Opposition, Delhi Legislative Assembly

Member, Political Affairs Committee, Aam Aadmi Party

Former Chief Minister of Delhi

Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi

Former Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture

Dr. Shama Mohamed

Politician and Spokesperson, Indian National Congress (INC)

Moderator

Ms. Archana Shukla

Journalist, Consulting Editor, India Today Group

Day 1 | 18:30 - 19:30 | Cultural Evening

Snehabhavam: An Indian Classical dance and music fusion by Thadeem, JGU at Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

END of DAY 1

Day 2 | 10:15 - 11:15 | Plenary - Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

Screens, Stories and Regulation: Charting India's Media and Entertainment Landscape

India's media and entertainment sector, one of the world's fastest-growing, reflects the country's rise as both a cultural powerhouse and a global soft power hub. Fueled by digital adoption and the boom of OTT alongside television and cinema, it faces challenges of regulation, diversity, and sustainability. With the proposed Broadcasting Services Bill and debates on OTT oversight, the need to balance creativity with accountability is urgent. Meanwhile, new technologies like AI, AR/VR, and the creator economy are reshaping content and consumption. The central question is how India can build an inclusive, innovative, and globally competitive M&E ecosystem that empowers both large players and independent voices.

This panel asks:

- How can India balance regulation with creativity and freedom of expression?
- What frameworks are needed to ensure diversity, sustainability, and fair competition in the M&E sector?
- How can Indian storytelling harness technology while preserving cultural representation and inclusivity?
- What role can the M&E industry play in strengthening India's global soft power by 2030?

Speaker

Ms. Mahima Kaul

Director - Global Affairs, Netflix - India.

Moderator

Ms. Sonali Negi Das

Adjunct Faculty, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication, JGU

Day 2 | 11:30 - 13:00 | Panel 5 - Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

The Aspirational Majority: Charting India's Middle-Class Transition and Economic Modernisation

India's "aspirational majority", a middle class set to comprise two-thirds of the population by 2030, is driving demand for housing, healthcare, education, and digital services while reshaping politics and governance. Yet, limited jobs, inequality, weak social security, and urban pressures threaten these aspirations. Empowering this group as both producers and consumers is vital for growth, but inclusivity and sustainability remain the core challenge.

This panel asks:

- How can India harness the aspirations of its middle class to fuel inclusive and sustainable growth?
- Can the aspirational majority become the stabilising anchor of democracy and a driver of modernisation?
- What reforms are needed to ensure that rising aspirations translate into opportunity rather than inequality?

Panel

Dr. Surjit Bhalla

Economist, Author, and Columnist

Former Executive Director for India at the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Former Member, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council

Dr. M.V. Rajeev Gowda

Politician and Academician

Former Director, Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

Dr. Rathin Roy

Distinguished Professor, Kautilya School of Public Policy (KSPP), Hyderabad

Visiting Senior Fellow, ODI Global

Moderator

Prof. (Dr.) Naveen Thomas

Professor and Vice Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, JGU

Day 2 | 14:00 - 15:30 | Panel 6 - Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

Beyond Doctrine: Whole of Government approach as the future of Indian war-fighting

The panel will deliberate on five broad pillars central to India's evolving defence posture. First, the challenges of capability development and indigenisation, particularly in acquiring and absorbing emerging and disruptive technologies. Second, the need to restructure India's defence framework to meet contemporary security demands. Third, the ongoing debate on theaterisation and the imperative of intra-military jointness. Fourth, the conduct of both conventional and sub-conventional operations in a rapidly shifting operational environment. Finally, the discussion will draw upon lessons from Operation Sindoor to illuminate these aspects in practice.

Panel

Lt. Gen D.S. Hooda (Retd.)

Co-Founder, Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR), New Delhi
Former General Officer Commanding, Northern Command, Indian Army

V.Adm. Pradeep Chauhan (Retd.)

Director-General, National Maritime Foundation
Visiting Faculty, College of Defence Management and National Defence College, New Delhi

Maj. Gen. Rohit Gupta (Retd.)

Former Additional Director General Weapons and Equipment, Indian Army.

Col. KPM Das (Retd.)

Former National Cybersecurity and Trust Adviser, Cisco
Superannuated Officer, Corps of Signals, Indian Army

Moderator

Prof. (Col) Shashank Ranjan (Retd.)

Associate Professor of Practice, Jindal School of International Affairs
Director, Pankaj Kumar Jha Centre for Security Studies, JGU

Day 2 | 15:30 - 17:00 | Panel 7 - Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

Reimagining Social Justice: Caste Census, Reservation, and Affirmative Action

Social justice remains central to India's constitutional vision, but debates on caste census, reservation, and affirmative action continue to shape its democratic journey. While reservations have expanded access for marginalized groups, tensions around merit, fairness, and new community demands persist. A caste census could enable evidence-based policymaking, but also risks politicization. Looking ahead, affirmative action must evolve beyond quotas to address gender, regional, and digital inequalities.

This panel asks:

- How can reservation policies balance historical justice with emerging aspirations?
- Would a caste census strengthen policymaking or deepen divides?
- What should affirmative action look like in 21st-century India?

Panel

Dr. Jatinder Kumar Bajaj

Founding Director, Center for Policy Studies (CPS), New Delhi

Member, Commission to Examine Sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes set up by the President of India

Mr. Milind Kamble

Padma Shri

Indian Entrepreneur

Founder Chairman, Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI), Pune

Justice K. Chandru

Indian Advocate

Former Judge of the Madras High Court

Moderator

Prof. (Dr.) Aparna Agarwal

Assistant Professor, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, JGU

Day 2 | 15:30 - 17:00 | Fireside Chat - Imaginarium, Savitri Jindal Faculty Office Block

Healthcare Revolution: India's Path to Universal Healthcare Access

Healthcare underpins human development, yet India faces persistent gaps in access, affordability, and quality. The pandemic revealed both resilience, through pharma strength and digital health, and vulnerabilities in underfunded primary care, weak infrastructure, and high out-of-pocket costs. Initiatives like Ayushman Bharat and the Digital Health Mission mark progress, but achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) needs higher public investment, workforce reforms, and a stronger focus on preventive, community-based care.

This panel asks:

- How can India move from schemes to a comprehensive, sustainable healthcare model?
- What financing and workforce reforms are essential to achieve UHC?
- How can technology, partnerships, and preventive care be leveraged to ensure equity and access for all?

Panel

Ms. Sandhya Venkateswaran

Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), Programme Lead (Human Development Work - Health Policy), New Delhi

Dr. Rama Vaidyanathan Baru

Professor, Jindal School of Public Health & Human Development

Honorary Fellow with the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi

Honorary Professor at India Studies Centre, Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China

Moderator

Prof. (Dr.) Indranil Mukhopadhyay

Professor, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy & Associate Director, Jindal Institute of Haryana Studies, JGU

Day 2 | 17:30 - 18:30 | Valedictory Ceremony, Jindal Policy Conclave 2025 | Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block

*Valedictory Address by **Mr. Armstrong Pame**, Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Global Auditorium, First Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block*

END of DAY 2