

Speaker Bios

Analyzing Land Conflict and Investment Risks in India: Release of Studies on Land Conflicts and Stalled Investment

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Arvind Khare - *Chair of Board of Directors, The Tenure Facility*

Arvind Khare is a natural resources management specialist with more than 20 years of experience in the non-profit, corporate and public sectors. He has made significant contributions to the critical examination of poverty-environment linkages, initiated a number of innovative rural development projects and was involved in social risk assessment of development investments in India. His work has also involved the development and analysis of policies in infrastructure, forestry, tribal development, social development and watershed sectors for the state and central governments of India.

Dr. Kundan Kumar - *Asia Regional Director, Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)*

Dr. Kundan Kumar has a PhD in Resource Development (2010) from Michigan State University and a Post Graduate Diploma in Forest Management from Indian Institute of Forest Management (1990). He worked with NGOs and the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in India on community forestry, bank financing of forestry projects, watershed development, and micro-credit. He has also been closely involved with social and environmental mobilizations in India, including the enactment of India's landmark Forest Rights Act. Prior to joining RRI in 2014, he worked as a faculty member at University of Toronto for five years, teaching and conducting research on forest governance (specifically forest tenure), environmental justice, and social movements.

Ankur Paliwal - *freelance journalist*

Ankur Paliwal writes on science, global health, gender and the environment. In his seven years of journalism career, Paliwal has worked as a staff correspondent for Down To Earth magazine published from New Delhi, and Nautilus magazine in New York. He has an MA degree in science writing from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Other than India, and the US, he has also reported from Germany and Ethiopia. He is the lead researcher on the Land Conflict Watch.

Dr. Ashwini Chhatre – *Faculty member, Indian School of Business, Hyderabad*

Ashwini Chhatre has an undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Delhi and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Duke University. In between, he spent 11 years working with local communities and social movements on environment and development issues in India. He was the Giorgio Ruffolo Post-doctoral Fellow in Sustainability Science at Harvard University during 2006-07, and served as a faculty member in the Department of Geography and GIScience, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign between 2007-2015. He also received The GroundTruth Project's health reporting fellowship in 2015, Woods Hole Ocean Science Journalism Fellowship, and Doctors without Borders's Media Fellowship in 2016. He has an MA degree in science writing from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Dr. T Haque - *Chairman of the Special Cell for Land Issues, Niti Aayog, Government of India*

Dr. T Haque is an expert on agricultural economics, agricultural development, and agrarian reform. Dr. Haque has served as Chairman with Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, Ministry of Agriculture and worked as National Fellow/Professor at the National Centre for Agricultural Economics & Policy Research. He was Executive Director at the Council for Social Development. His areas of specialization are land reform, food security and sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Usha Ramanathan - *writer, expert on law and poverty*

Usha Ramanathan works on the jurisprudence of law, poverty, and rights. She writes and speaks on issues that include the nature of law, Bhopal Gas Disaster, mass displacement, eminent domain, civil liberties including the death penalty, beggary, criminal law, custodial institutions, the environment, judicial process. She was a member of the Expert Group on Privacy set up in the Planning Commission of India, which submitted its report in October 2012. She was a member of a committee (2013-14) set up in the Department of Biotechnology to review the Draft Human DNA Profiling Bill 2012, and a member of the Committee set up by the Prime Minister's Office (2013-14) to study the socio-economic status of tribal communities which gave its report to the government earlier this year.

Jaithirth (Jerry) Rao - *Founder and Chairman, VBHC Value Homes*

Jaithirth Rao has worked in Banking and IT. Currently he is the Founder and Chairman of VBHC Value Homes, a company that builds affordable homes, and the Founder and Director of Home First Finance, a company that makes low/medium ticket housing loans. He has an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad and a Master's Degree from Booth School at the University of Chicago. He has published a couple of books and has been a columnist for several newspapers and magazines.

Dharmakirti Joshi - *Chief Economist, CRISIL Limited*

Dharmakirti Joshi is the Chief Economist at CRISIL limited, an S&P Global Company. He has spent 26 years in economic research and consultancy. His areas of interest are policy reforms, macroeconomics, monitoring the impact of macroeconomic domestic and external shocks on the economy. He spent 11 years at the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) before moving on to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), New Delhi, and then CRISIL. He holds a Master's degree in Economics. He has attended program on Macroeconomic Policy and Management at Harvard University and was a visiting scholar to Economic Research Unit of University of Pennsylvania.

Mr Shyam Khadka - *UN FAO representative in India*

Mr Shyam Khadka, a national of Nepal, holds a Bachelor in Commerce, a Bachelor in Law and a Master's degree in Business Administration and Commerce from the Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal, as well as a Master's Degree in Agribusiness Management from the University of the Philippines, Los Baños, Philippines. He started his career in 1977 in the Agricultural Development Bank, Kathmandu, Nepal where he held several positions until 1993. He joined the United Nations in 1993, as Senior Project Management Officer in the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), in Bangkok, Thailand and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with responsibilities for the countries in East, South-east and South Asian countries. From 1997 to 2004, he was Country Programme Manager for India and periodically and concurrently for Bangladesh and Nepal in the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome, Italy. From 2004 to 2014, he worked as Senior Portfolio Manager in IFAD, Rome, Italy, and was responsible for leading IFAD's self-evaluation, including the review and report on the development effectiveness of IFAD's global portfolio of loans and grants, and for developing corporate level operational policies and strategies. In September 2014, he was appointed Chief of the Asia and Pacific Service in the Investment Centre Division (TCI) in FAO, Rome, Italy.

Shankar Gopalakrishnan - *researcher, organizer*

Shankar Gopalakrishnan has written on issues of political economy, control over natural resources, common lands, workers' issues and development politics, and is the author of books on migration, special economic zones, communalism and related subjects. He is affiliated with the Campaign for Survival and Dignity, a national platform of *adivasi* and forest dwellers' organizations, and the Uttarakhand Nav Nirman Mazdoor Sangh, a union of unorganized sector workers in Uttarakhand. His training is in development economics and environmental studies, and he received his M.Sc. in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Dr. K.P. Krishnan - *Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India*

Dr. K.P. Krishnan was educated in economics at St. Stephens College and law at the Campus Law Centre University of Delhi. He subsequently obtained, in 2002, his FPM/Ph.D in economics from Indian Institute of Management (IIM),

Bangalore. He belongs to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) 1983 batch and has served in various field and secretariat positions in India in the Government of Karnataka, Government of India, and World Bank.

Before joining the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development on 1st November, 2014, he was Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. He has authored a number of reports on the Indian financial sector and published many academic papers on urban development and financial sector issues.

Shri Arun Goyal - *Additional Secretary, Government of India*

Shri Arun Goyal is an IAS officer of 1985 batch of AGMU Cadre. He graduated in electrical engineering from Delhi College of Engineering in 1980 and completed his PGDM (MBA) from Indian Institute of Management, Ahmadabad in 1982. He also has a post graduate degree in Economics from Himachal Pradesh University and a post graduate Degree in Development Management from Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow, UK. He is presently posted as Additional Secretary in the Government of India & is heading Project Monitoring Group (PMG), which is part of Prime Minister's Office. The PMG aims at expediting implementation of stalled and other megaprojects by fast tracking clearances/ approvals and resolving a variety of other issues.

Mr. Ravi Uppal - *MD & Group CEO, JSPL*

Mr. Ravi Uppal brings with him more than 36 years of experience of working in engineering and infrastructural segments in India and abroad. He has successfully set up several new businesses and also turned around low performing units in the past. He has worked at various senior managerial positions in Larsen & Toubro Limited, ABB India and Volvo India. Immediately prior to joining JSPL, he was the Director, President & CEO at Power at Larsen & Toubro Group. Prior to L&T, he was the President Global Markets & Technology with ABB Group and Member of Group Executive Committee of ABB Group, Zurich, Switzerland and Chairman of ABB, India, founding Managing Director & Country Manager of Volvo India.

Ashok Kumar Tyagi - *Group Chief Financial Officer, DLF Limited*

Ashok Kumar Tyagi has been Group Chief Financial Officer with DLF Limited since October 1, 2009, and has been its Head of Commercial Functions of the Development Vertical since October 2009. He served as Senior Vice President of Enabling Functions at Genpact Ltd, and has about 25 years of work experience. Prior to this, he was coordinating the Vice-Chairman's Office including creation of business plans and cash flow management. He is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.