

Fraunhofer Innovation and Technology Platform (FIT)

Circular Economy-Creating a Sustainable Environment

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Indian Speaker Profiles for 6th Fraunhofer Innovation and Technology Platform 2023 (FIT)

Dr. Anita Gupta

Head Climate Change and Clean Energy Division
Department of Science and Technology, Govt of India



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Dr Anita Gupta, an administrator by profession with over 20 years of experience in managing Govt. of India led programs on innovation and Entrepreneurship. She is currently Head of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Department of Science and Technology. She has played a pioneering role in steering the horizontal and vertical growth of innovation, entrepreneurship and startups in the country. She has been a lead catalyst in establishing over 100 technology business incubators at Institutions of academic excellence including IITs, IIMs, NITs and leading private universities. She has also have been instrumental in carving out of a new umbrella initiative NIDHI, National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations under Prime Minister's National Initiative of Startup India.

Dr. Gupta is deeply involved in transforming the Indian innovation landscape by engaging new models of Public Private Partnerships with leading MNCs i.e. Intel, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Texas Instruments, Tatas and the Bennett Coleman and Co etc. She is driving the key program on Innovation i.e. India Innovation Growth Program, Power of Ideas and Innovate for Digital India. At national level, she possess the enriching blend of experience in promoting not only the startups based on technologies of excellence but also in empowerment of the society through nurturing micro-enterprises based on technologies of relevance.

In the Ministry, she spearheads a new and exclusive component on Women Entrepreneurs in technology and few of her recent work are first of its kind initiatives in the country, which include setting up of Department's first Research Park in IIT Gandhinagar, Seed and Acceleration support for Startups in Incubators, India Innovation Challenge for Engineering students, Plugin: a first hardware product based incubation program.



Shri Suman Bery

Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog



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Shri Suman Bery is currently Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog, in the rank and status of a Cabinet Minister. An experienced policy economist and research administrator, Mr. Bery took over as NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson from 1 May 2022. At the time of his appointment, Mr. Bery was a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi; a Global Fellow in the Asia Programme of the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars in Washington D.C.; and a non-resident fellow at Bruegel, an economic policy research institution in Brussels. He was also a member of the Board of the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, New Delhi.

Before his appointment at Shell, Mr. Bery served as Director-General (Chief Executive) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in New Delhi-one of India's most respected institutions of empirical socioeconomic research. During his tenure, NCAER greatly extended its global links and was recognized as one of India's leading think tanks by the independent global Think Tank Initiative. In his decade leading NCAER, Mr. Bery was at various times member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council; of India's Statistical Commission; and of the Reserve Bank of India's Technical Advisory Committee on Monetary Policy.

Prior to NCAER, Mr. Bery was with the World Bank in Washington D.C., which he joined through the Young Professional Programme. His career at the World Bank spanned research on financial sector development and country policy and strategy, notably in Latin America and the Caribbean. His country experience included Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru. His experience on financial sector reform in Latin America led to an appointment as Special Consultant to the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India between 1992 and 1994.



Mr. Friedrich Birgelen

Deputy Consul General, German Consulate Bangalore



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Since July 2021 **Mr. Friedrich Birgelen** is the Deputy Consul General for Germany in Bangalore. Friedrich moved to Bangalore with his wife and two young kids. He is a lawyer by training. After completing both the Bar exams successfully, he began his career as a corporate lawyer for the oil company Shell in Hamburg. In 2015 he joined the foreign service and was posted to Nigeria, with a responsibility for migration matters in West-Africa.



Mr. Amitabh Sinha

Head - Membership and Partnerships
The IET, India



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Mr. Amitabh Sinha is the Head - Membership and Partnerships for the IET in India, and looks after relationships with Corporates, Academic Institutes as well as memberships and accreditation.

Additionally, Mr. Sinha sits on the national working board of Ease of Doing Business in India, the National Highway for Electric Vehicles (NHEV) pilot and the national healthcare pilot Digital Innovations/ Interventions for Sustainable Healthcare (DIISHA).

In his previous avatars Mr. Sinha is a nine time entrepreneur, as well as a two time venture capitalist. He has also been in volunteering roles in multiple industry bodies and ran a business and culture consulting outfit till 2022. He has also mentored young companies, founding teams and senior corporate executives over the last fifteen year.

Mr. Sinha has worked across domains as diverse as Petroleum, Consulting, Chemicals, International Trading, Pharmaceuticals, Manufacturing, Brand Communications, Communities, Venture Capital, Financing and Industry representation.

Mr. Sinha's areas of expertise lie in Business Logic, Business Strategy, GTM, Scaling, Frugal Growth, Low/No Cost Marketing, Stakeholder Engagement & Management, Community Building & Management and Leadership.



Mr. Prashanth Doreswamy

President & CEO- Continental India



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Mr. Prashanth Doreswamy has an experience of more than 30 yrs. in Automotive and Manufacturing industry. He is a technology executive with a strong legacy of consistently achieving non-linear business growth, facilitating change management, and leading organizational transformation across different business verticals and cultural paradigms. He has an extensive and in-depth domain knowledge spanning across Automotive electronics, User experience, Architecture & Networking, Safety & Motion, Smart & Autonomous mobility. Mr. Doreswamy has an experience in establishing Greenfield facilities, large scale ER&D centers, Operations Management, sales and Business Development teams from scratch; substantial international exposure leading teams with a diverse cultural/functional/geographic flavor.



Mr. Ashish Lele

Director
CSIR- National Chemical Laboratory



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Mr. Ashish Lele is a skilled leader in engineering and research, and currently he is the Director of CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory. He has crafted a growth roadmap for technology till 2030. His expertise extends across multiple roles, including guiding the advanced materials and alternative energy group at RIL, where he played a crucial role in devising the strategic roadmap for the New Energy and New Materials. As Head of Polymer Science at CSIR-NCL, he drove PEM fuel cell tech through a collaborative consortium involving three CSIR laboratories and three Indian industries.

Mr. Lele's accomplishments include the Eminent Engineer Award from the Engineering Council of India in 2023 and the IESA Engineering Excellence Award in the same. He is also involved with start ups and as a Board Member in three companies.



Mr. Sridhar L

Head- Sustainability ,Bangalore International Airport Ltd.
Governing Council Member, UN Global Compact Network, India



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Mr. Sridhar L is an experienced Sustainability Professional in the field of ESG, Environment, Climate change, Strategic Planning, Water, Circular Economy, Energy, Supply chain Sustainability, Audits, P & L Management. Committed for the development & implementation of initiatives for a Sustainable future. Passionately collaborates with teams to create & implement strategic corporate sustainability goals. He is currently the Head of Sustainability at Bangalore International Airport Limited, responsible for the Sustainability 2030 strategy and deliverables. At BIAL he drives the Sustainability strategy 2030, which supports 11 UNSDGs directly and 6 other UNSDGs indirectly. He is responsible for ESG drive across BIAL, UN Global compact principles, Airport Council International (ACI) carbon accreditation programme, Green building certification, Carbon sequestration, Strategic implementation of pillars, Water Stewardship, Net Zero Carbon Emissions, Community Aligned Noise Management, Sustainable Procurement, Sustainable mobility, Circular Economy along with Sustainable Transformation – Behavioural Change.

Identification and communication of key ESG trends, developments and key performance drivers relevant to ESG landscape and context of the organization. Demonstrates deep understanding of industry and marketplace ESG impacts. Developing and implementing ESG programs in alignment with ESG themes and requirements. Building ESG awareness and competency in processes and culture within the organization. Use of technology to continually learn and sharing the knowledge with the stakeholders. With strong commitment from management, driving the Sustainable transformation programme for individual contribution and creating positive culture across the organization. Currently part of the United Nations Global Compact Governing Council (UNGCGN) and contributing for the collaborative sustainability drive in the country. Key focus areas are Environment, Labour, Anti-Corruption and Human Rights.



Mr. Siddharth Mayur,

Founder, MD & CEO, h2e Power Systems



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A first generation social entrepreneur, **Mr. Siddharth Mayur** is the Founder of India's first green hydrogen, electrolyser & fuel cell company with operations in India, Germany and the USA. Mr. Mayur's Company h2e Power is bringing cutting edge, state-of-art technology & NetZero solutions to various industry segments including Agriculture. Mr. Mayur founded h2e Power in 2009 & his company has developed commercial grade electrolysers, CHP Fuel Cells & solutions for Agriculture, Oil & Gas, Steel & Cement industries. As a startup company, h2e Power has the distinction of working in 3 continents & aligning with partners across the globe to create a end-to-end value chain on green hydrogen & derivatives. Mr. Mayur's dream is to bring prosperity thru power to over 118 million farmers in India and many more across the world.



Dr. Prasad Modak

Managing Director-Environmental Management Centre Pvt. Ltd.
Director – Ekonnnect Knowledge Foundation



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Dr. Prasad Modak holds an experience of more than 40 years with specialties in Environmental policy, Environmental assessment, ESG at financing institutions, business and sustainability, circular economy and capacity building in environmental management. He is currently the Managing Director of EMC and Director of Ekonnnect Knowledge Foundation. Dr Modak has worked with almost all key UN, multi-lateral, and bi-lateral developmental institutions in the world. These include the World Bank, IFC, Asian Development Bank, European Investment Bank, UNEP, UNIDO, UNDP, DFID, Swedish and Dutch Embassies in Delhi etc and intergovernmental organizations such as the Asian Productivity Organization, Tokyo. Apart from Government of India and various State Governments, Dr Modak's advice is sought by Governments of Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Mauritius, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Dr Modak was a member of Indian Resources Panel (IRP) at Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and currently is a Member of Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement at the Ministry of Finance. He is also on the Advisory Committee on G20 India Presidency – Circular Economy set up by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Currently, he chairs the Product Advisory Committee set up by NCDEX on carbon market.

Dr Modak has published several books on environmental management. His book on EIA for Developing Countries was published by UN University (1999) and later reprinted by Oxford University Press (2005). Later, this book was translated in Chinese and Japanese. His book "Environmental Management Towards Sustainability" was published in December 2017 with CRC Press of Taylor and Francis Group. His latest book on Practicing Circular Economy for the CRC Press was released in June 2021.



Mr. Yashodhan Gokhale

Chief Technology Officer, Battrixx



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With over 18 years of research and professional experience in energy, nanomaterials, and batteries, **Mr. Yashodhan Gokhale** is the Chief Technology Officer at Battrixx, a company that develops cutting-edge solutions in lithium ion, solid state, and sodium ion battery technologies.

Mr. Gokhale's core competencies include developing and optimizing nano-based electrodes, gas diffusion electrodes, and battery thermal management systems, as well as managing business development, sales, project negotiation, and order acquisition for energy storage projects in India. He also has extensive hands-on technical experience in various research facilities and analytical instruments, and excellent skills in product and process development, engineering design, scale-up, and market analysis. His mission is to couple chemistry, materials, engineering, and electrochemistry to create novel and efficient batteries for various applications in the automotive, solar, and stationary storage sectors. Mr. Gokhale collaborates internationally with academic and industrial partners to investigate new materials and their potential uses, and to foster innovation and excellence in the battery space.



Ms. Sunita Sule

Director, Country Development & Government Relations
BASF India



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Ms. Sunita Sule is part of the Management Team, heading Country Development, Sustainability, CSR & Government Relations, at BASF in India.

Ms. Sule has around 25 years of experience in the chemical industry, and is actively engaged on topics relating to Chemicals, Environment, Sustainability & CSR through committees of CII, FICCI & the Indian Chemical Council. She contributes to Sustainability Forums like the UN Global Compact Network India as Vice President of the Western Region Council and is part of the Regional Task Group of the Alliance to End Plastic Waste.

She has studied Economics, Germanistics and Business Administration and has international work experience in countries like India, Germany, Belgium and Hong Kong.



Ms. Sindhu Srinivas

Head of Sustainability Engineering, SAP Labs India



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Ms. Sindhu Srinivas, an Engineering lead at SAP, oversees the sustainability product development teams in India. Her responsibilities involve managing projects focused on creating solutions that empower enterprises to assess their product and corporate environmental impacts throughout their supply chains. Additionally, she plays a pivotal role in facilitating reporting against ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) metrics.

