



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi
Shodhotsav 2026
Research and Development Division

Policy Hub

The Policy Hub event at Shodhotsav 2026, the Annual Research Festival of Dr B R Ambedkar University, Delhi, will examine how academic research can be transformed into evidence-informed policy and actionable practises to address contemporary societal changes. The event will foster dialogue on strengthening research-policy-practise interface through interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge mobilisation.

Aligned with the vision of Vikshit Bharat @ 2047, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), and the National Educational Policy 2020, the day long Policy Hub, is curated into two distinct sessions.

Session I
Translating Knowledge and Research into Policy and Practice

Date: 10 September 2026 (Thursday)

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Venue: Seminar Hall,
School of Heritage Research and Management
Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi – 110067

Who can participate: Students, Research scholars, faculty members

Concept Note

The first session, “**Translating Knowledge and Research into Policy and Practice,**” is conceived around a central question: How can knowledge generated through research, scholarship and experience be translated into policy, programmes, innovation and measurable societal impact?

The contemporary research ecosystem increasingly recognises that the value of knowledge cannot be assessed only through its production or publication. Its larger significance lies in its capacity to inform decision-making, address societal challenges, strengthen institutions, shape public policy and generate outcomes that are meaningful to communities and society at large. This requires a stronger interface between knowledge institutions, government, industry, practitioners and communities, supported by effective mechanisms of knowledge mobilisation and translation.

The session will bring together three complementary perspectives on this research–policy–practice interface. It will explore the journey of knowledge from documentation and research to policy formulation, from policy to implementation, and from **implementation to measurable impact**. Through these perspectives, the session seeks to demonstrate that research impact is not an incidental outcome of scholarship but can be deliberately cultivated through institutional partnerships, policy engagement, strategic communication and mechanisms for translating evidence into action.

Objective of the Session

The session will address the consequential question:

How does knowledge travel—from the researcher and knowledge institution to the policymaker, implementing agency, industry and ultimately society?

This question is central to creating a research ecosystem in which scholarship is not viewed as an end in itself, but as a resource for addressing contemporary challenges and generating public value.

Expected Impact of the Session

The session is intended to initiate a broader conversation on building robust research–policy–practice ecosystem in India. It will identify institutional mechanisms, collaborative models, communication strategies and knowledge-mobilisation processes through which research can achieve greater policy and societal relevance.

Ultimately, the session seeks to reposition impact as an integral dimension of the research process. Knowledge translation should not be treated merely as the final stage after research has been completed. Rather, questions of policy relevance, stakeholder engagement, application, communication and measurable outcomes should inform the research ecosystem from the outset.

Introducing the Speakers

1. Ms. Rashmi Sharma



Executive Director (Administration & Biodiversity),
National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG),
(Joint Secretary) Ministry of Jal Shakti

“Evidence to Action: How Research Shaped India’s Foundational Literacy Mission”

The presentation will provide an important perspective on how research, evidence, field experience and stakeholder consultations can inform policy design and subsequently be translated into national programmes. It will examine the movement from evidence to policy, from policy to implementation, and from implementation to outcomes, highlighting the

institutional coordination and implementation mechanisms required to take a research-informed policy agenda to scale.

The case of foundational literacy is particularly significant because it demonstrates that the impact of research is realised not simply when evidence is incorporated into a policy document, but when that evidence is translated into actionable frameworks, institutional responsibilities, implementation guidelines and programmes capable of reaching millions of learners.

About the Speaker:

Ms. Rashi Sharma is a serving career bureaucrat, with over twenty-three years of experience in policy formulation and policy implementation with the Government of India. Presently posted as Executive Director (Administration & Biodiversity), National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), (Joint Secretary) Ministry of Jal Shakti, overseeing administration, human resources, institutional coordination, and policy and programme implementation relating to biodiversity conservation under the Namami Gange Programme.

An accomplished public policy professional, Ms. Sharma as Director, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education (2016-2022), played a significant role in the preparation and implementation, and overall coordination of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Ms. Sharma was closely involved in the design and launch of the NIPUN Bharat Mission for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, as well as NISHTHA and other major education initiatives.

She has also contributed extensively to scholarship and policy discourse through books including *The Power of Curiosity: In and Beyond Classroom* (Harper Collins) and *No Silos: Learning the NEP Way* (National Book Trust), along with numerous articles on education, public participation, multilingualism, digital education, and foundational learning

2. Dr. Viswajanani J. Sattigeri



Head of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), New Delhi

“Traditional Knowledge: From Knowledge Systems to Societal Value”

India possesses an extensive and diverse corpus of Traditional Knowledge that represents generations of accumulated experience, experimentation and community practice. The challenge today is to ensure that such knowledge is appropriately documented, protected, researched and connected with contemporary systems of education, science and innovation. The discussion will examine the institutionalisation of Traditional Knowledge within contemporary knowledge frameworks, including its interface with the Indian Knowledge

Systems (IKS) initiative and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). The discussion will also explore how Traditional Knowledge can generate new pathways for innovation, education and societal welfare when connected responsibly with contemporary scientific and institutional ecosystems. The larger question will be how knowledge that has historically been embedded in communities can be translated into recognised, protected and socially beneficial knowledge assets.

About the Speaker:

Dr Sattigiri has over three decades of experience spanning scientific research, strategic planning, intellectual property, innovation, and Traditional Knowledge management. At CSIR-TKDL, she leads initiatives for documenting, protecting, and integrating India's Traditional Knowledge with modern science, while advancing collaborations with the Ministry of AYUSH and the Indian Knowledge Systems Division, Ministry of Education. She has published extensively, holds several patents, and has delivered over 150 lectures on Traditional Knowledge, IPR, ethics, governance, and related subjects.

Among the many research and scholarly publications of Dr Sattigiri, the recent ones are on *“Digitization of Indian Traditional Agricultural Practices in the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library–Towards Sustainability Science”* (2025), and, *“Traditional knowledge databases as data intermediaries in relation to the emerging data governance principles”* (2025).

3. Ms. Divya Singh Rathore



Senior Policy Specialist, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Invest India
Co-founder, Communeeti
Co-founder, Sangam Centre for Culture & Public Policy

“Creative Economy: From Knowledge and Culture to Policy and Economic Value”

The creative and cultural sectors represent an important interface between knowledge, culture, enterprise and economic development. Their contribution extends beyond cultural production to employment generation, investment, tourism, innovation and the development of new economic opportunities. Yet unlocking this potential requires policy frameworks informed by research, sectoral evidence and sustained engagement between academia, government and industry.

The deliberation will examine how academic knowledge and cultural research can contribute to investment and economic policy, culture and tourism policy, strategic communication and the development of enabling ecosystems for the creative economy. It will also consider how

stronger partnerships between universities, policymakers, industry and cultural institutions can help transform ideas and research into policy interventions and economic opportunities.

About the Speaker:

Ms. Divya Singh Rathore currently serves as a Senior Policy Specialist, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Invest India, advising on investment strategy and stakeholder engagement, including in the creative and cultural sectors. Previously, she served as Policy Specialist to the Union Minister of Culture, Tourism and DoNER, where she contributed to policy development, strategic communications, and knowledge systems. She is also Co-Founder of Communeeti and Sangam Centre for Culture and Public Policy. As a public policy professional Ms. Rathore experience lies at the intersection of culture, tourism, investment promotion, and governance. Ms. Rathore publications include “*Fortifying India’s Transformation*,” a book on India's policy and developmental journey. She has Co-authored, “*Good Governance Compendium 2.0*,” analysing 35 governance models across India

Session II

Evidence to Action: Policy-Research Interface for Strengthening Learning Ecology

Date: 10th September 2026 (Thursday)

Time: 2.30 pm – 6.00 pm

Venue: Seminar Hall,
School of Heritage Research and Management
Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi. 110067

Who can participate: Students, Research scholars, faculty members

Concept Note

The second session, **Evidence to Action: Policy-Research Interface for Strengthening Learning Ecology**, is conceived around a central question: **how to bridge the gap between theory and practice in order to strengthen learning outcomes?**

This session will focus on different possibilities to bridge the gap between classroom learning and knowledge generated in the world of work such that both can complement each other thereby strengthening the overall learning ecology. Thereby creating a synergy between classroom learning and knowledge generated by direct involvement of the students through various activities with practitioners and grassroot organizations. Through the process of integration of theory with the world of practice, this Session will aim to considerably enhance employability of graduate students.

This session will bring together two different perspectives on enhancing the learning ecosystem of a public policy student and the subsequent transcending as a policy professional where both the student-self and the professional-self continue to seek knowledge and apply the same for the creation of an inclusive and just society.

Expected Impact of the Session

The session is intended to initiate a broader conversation on bridging the gap between theory and practice by placing “the public” at the centre. The session aims to contribute to a rigorous understanding of policy making and its implementation, and to draw attention of the public at large about the importance and relevance of evidence- based policy making process. It hopes to create a credible platform for critically informed debates on all aspects of public policy, by providing a holistic understanding of policy, decoding and navigating policy complexity, and, creating a platform for context-specific evidence-based policymaking.

Introducing the Speakers

1. Nitin Saluja

Director, Government and Public Affairs, The LEGO Group.



“The Human Side of Public Policy: Navigating Complexity with Trust and Empathy”

This talk which will explore the inner craft of public policy practice, focusing on how professionals think, exercise judgment, and navigate complexity within institutions. While Nitin’s talk focuses on the journey of the reflective self and the human side which the professional must bear in mind while navigating various policy alternatives.

About the speaker

Nitin Saluja, author of *The Policy Self*, is a public policy professional with nearly two decades of experience working at the intersection of technology, governance, and society. His work focuses on shaping regulatory environments, strengthening institutional engagement, and enabling businesses and governments to navigate complex policy landscapes in India and globally. Over the course of his career, he has led policy engagement across central and state governments on issues spanning e-commerce, digital media, taxation, and emerging technology platforms. He has held senior policy roles at Amazon, Facebook, and ByteDance, working on both established sectors and new regulatory frontiers such as e pharmacy and agriculture, and helping shape pathways for evolving business models.

His experience also includes advisory work with the World Bank and Ernst and Young, as well as contributions to India’s Digital India programme through the Ministry of Electronics

and IT. Across these roles, he has worked closely with policymakers, industry leaders, and multilateral institutions to advance responsible innovation and support institution building.

2. **Khushbu Singh**

Head, Industry-Academia Partnership, CII



“From Knowledge to Impact: Industry–Academia Partnerships for Viksit Bharat”

This talk will capture the challenges and opportunities in industry-academia partnership and will explore its possible contribution towards achieving Viksit Bharat. She will elaborate on how such partnership can strengthen India’s research, innovation, and technology commercialization landscape. In her talk, Khushbu Singh will touch upon how to design platforms that accelerate collaborative R&D; research translation, faculty entrepreneurship, talent mobility and innovation-led economic growth

About the speaker

Khushbu Singh is an innovation ecosystem leader working at the intersection of industry, academia, government and entrepreneurship to strengthen India's research, innovation and technology commercialisation landscape. As the Head of Industry–Academia Partnership at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), she collaborates with CEOs, Vice Chancellors, policymakers, researchers, startups and global institutions in establishing the Industry–Academia Partnership as a national platform connecting leaders from industry, universities, research institutions, government and the startup ecosystem.

Before joining CII, Khushbu served as Principal Consultant at IIT Delhi, where she developed strategic partnerships with industry to advance collaborative research, technology commercialisation and startup engagement. Her entrepreneurial experience as Founder of a digital health venture provided first-hand insight into building innovation from concept to commercialisation through an IoT-enabled connected care platform.

Registration Link for Participation



