

## Launch of Report *“Socio-economic Impact Assessment of Food Delivery Platform Workers”*

**Monday, August 28, 2023, 3:00-5:00 pm**  
**T2-Auditorium, NCAER**

### **Profiles of Panellists**



**Bornali Bhandari** is a Professor at NCAER with a background in international economics and macroeconomics, specifically focusing on the impact of globalisation on development. Currently, she is engaged in a number of industry studies, including automobiles, farm mechanisation, and digitisation. Her wider research interests include analysis of skilling from a 3-E perspective (education, employability and employment), e-Governance, infrastructure, particularly the roads and ICT sectors, G-20 issues like climate change financing and reserve currency, FDI and trade-related issues. She also oversees the production of the NCAER Quarterly Business Expectations Surveys.

Bornali received her doctorate degree from University of Oregon, Eugene, USA.

**Pallavi Choudhuri** is a Senior Fellow at the NCAER-National Data Innovation Centre (NDIC). Her primary research interests include development, employment, inequality, and gender. At NDIC, her recent work has focused on leading experiments related to measurement gaps in income and consumption data, and women’s time use data. Prior to joining NCAER, she taught courses in Economics at the Grand Valley State University as a Visiting Assistant Professor. She has a PhD in Economics from the University of Wyoming.



**Rameesh Kailasam** is the CEO of IndiaTech.org (Regd: Technology Services Industry Association), an industry body and think tank set up by Founders of Indian Start-ups and Investors in the Indian Start-up ecosystem, to enable ease of doing business and add strategic value through key government policies that will benefit Indian start-ups. He has over twenty years of experience in government relations and has worked with the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Oracle, Applied Materials, IBM and APCO Worldwide, in the areas of policy advocacy, crisis management and business development. He has authored over 100 papers and policy recommendations that have been implemented by various governments. He was awarded the Young Achiever Award by ICAI under Ministry of Corporate Affairs. He is also a regular columnist in various newspapers and media, and a regular participant in policy talk shows on television.



**Gurucharan Manna** is a Senior Adviser at NCAER. He was the Director General of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in the Government of India. Dr Manna has nearly 40 years of specialized experience in sample design, estimation procedures for household and establishment surveys, and the design of survey questionnaires and related documents for fieldwork and data validation. Over the years, his responsibilities at NSSO/CSO have included the compilation of GDP estimates; conduct of the 6th Economic Census; technical coordination and supervision of the Annual Survey of Industries, Energy Statistics, and Infrastructure Statistics; compilation of the Index of Industrial Production and the Index of Service Production; finalization of survey methodologies and reports for NSSO socio-economic surveys; and compilation of foreign trade statistics. He is currently the Chairman of the Editorial Advisory Board of Sarvekshana – a half-yearly journal being brought out by NSSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. He is also a member of the Reconstituted Expert Group on Minimum Wages and National Floor Wages constituted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and of the Labour Bureau's Expert Group for All-India Surveys.

**Sudipto Mundle** is a Chairman, Centre for Development Studies and Senior Adviser at NCAER. Formerly, he was an Emeritus Professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi. He serves on several corporate and other boards. He was also a member of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the erstwhile Monetary Policy Advisory Committee of the RBI and the National Statistical Commission, where he also acted as Chairman. He spent much of his career at the Asian Development Bank, Manila, from where he retired as a Director in the Strategy and Policy Department in 2008. In his earlier career in India he served in several academic institutions including the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, and NIPFP, New Delhi, where he was the Reserve Bank Chair Professor. He has had visiting assignments at Yale University, USA; Cambridge University, UK; the Institute of Social Studies at the Hague and the Japan Foundation, Tokyo. He was also an economic adviser in India's Ministry of Finance from 1986 to 1989. His current research interests include development economics, macroeconomic policy and modelling, public expenditure policy and governance.



**R.C.M. Reddy** is the Managing Director and CEO of Schoolnet India Limited and in charge of the delivery of Education, Employability, and Employment initiatives under multi-stakeholder partnership formats. He has led the organisation in demonstrating scalable models for improving learning outcomes in K-12 school education through digital and digitally-assisted education solutions, teachers' training and other services, impacting more than 40,000 schools and 15 million students and teachers. He has earlier been Policy Advisor at United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and served in various capacities in the Government of India and Government of Tripura.

**Ajaya Kumar Sahu** is an Associate Fellow at NCAER. He is an Agricultural Economist by training. During his tenure at NCAER, he has worked on various areas of research like poverty analysis, issues related to agriculture and rural development, labour and employment with special reference to quality of jobs and skills, public finance and analysis of price dynamics. His expertise lies in handling large-scale data like NSSO micro data on employment, consumption, enterprises, agriculture, ASI data, and in conducting primary surveys that involves sampling and weight calculations. Presently he is working on the gig economy in India and the quarterly Business Expectations Survey. He completed his MPhil in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.





**Rakshita Swamy** is the Founder and Director of SAFAR. She has worked towards advocating and institutionalising transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in governance, through her collaborations with Central and State Governments and civil society organisations. Her work focuses on conceptualising, demonstrating, and institutionalising mechanisms that enable disclosure of information, time-bound grievance redress and social audits in the delivery of schemes and functioning of public institutions. She

has worked with the Ministry of Rural Development with a mandate to support State Governments in implementing social audits under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), and drawing institutional synergies on social audit with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. She is associated with the Right to Information and Right to Work campaigns. She has a Masters in Social Policy and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a Bachelors in Economics from Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi.

**Anil K. Sharma** is Secretary to the Governing Body and Operations Director at NCAER. He has held several positions at NCAER after joining in 1992, including as the Officiating Director General in May-June 2021. He has also been the NABARD Chair Professor at NCAER; Visiting Researcher at the International Trade Division, The World Bank, Washington D.C., USA; Consultant to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris; Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Rome; and, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila; and a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Research Institute for Agricultural Economics, Budapest, Hungary. His main areas of research include: The WTO Agreement on Agriculture, Economic and Policy Reforms in Agriculture, Price Policy and Price Stabilisation Mechanisms, Rural Credit, Rural Infrastructure, and Rural Poverty. He advised the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on trade negotiations in agriculture under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, and has been a member of several government and industry committees and task forces. He received his MSc and PhD in Agricultural Economics from Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University.



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