

International Conference on  
**DEVELOPMENT, FREEDOM  
AND WELFARE**

in Honour of  
**Professor Amartya Sen**

19-20 December 2008  
New Delhi

Organized by  
Cornell University and  
Institute for Human Development



The year 2008 marks Professor Amartya Sen's 75th birthday. Professor Sen has made deep and lasting contributions to the academic disciplines of economics, philosophy, and more broadly, the social sciences. He has engaged in policy dialogue and public debate, advancing the cause of a human development focused policy agenda, and a tolerant and democratic polity. This Argumentative Indian has made the case for the poorest of the poor, and for plurality in cultural perspective. It is not surprising that he has won the highest awards, ranging from the Nobel Prize in Economics to the *Bharat Ratna*, India's highest civilian honour. This public recognition has gone hand in hand with the affection and admiration that Professor Sen's friends and students hold for him.

This International Conference on “**Development, Freedom and Welfare**” is being organized in his honour in New Delhi, on 19-20 December 2008, to celebrate this occasion. It is being jointly organized by Cornell University, USA, and Institute for Human Development, India. The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, will inaugurate and address the conference on 19 December, 2008. Many of the world's leading economists and social scientists will be present on the occasion.

The conference has three components:

- The launch of ***Arguments for a Better World: Essays in Honour of Amartya Sen***, a *Festschrift* by leading economists and social scientists, edited by Kaushik Basu and Ravi Kanbur and published by Oxford University Press. Many of the authors will be present at the conference.
- Three Policy Panels, on India specific and global development issues. The panelists are leading public intellectuals from India and abroad.
- Presentations by young economists and social scientists from India and around the world. This is particularly appropriate given Professor Sen's own devotion to his students and to young social scientists in general. Thirty papers have been selected for presentation during the conference out of over 200 submitted in response to a call for papers by young researchers from around the world. A large number of eminent international economists and social scientists have agreed to be discussants of the papers.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2008**

**Venue:** Hall No. 6, Vigyan Bhavan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi

**1015-1115: INAUGURAL FUNCTION AND LAUNCH OF  
"ARGUMENTS FOR A BETTER WORLD"**

Welcome

**Alakh N Sharma**

Professor and Director,  
*Institute for Human Development*

Introducing the Conference

**Kaushik Basu**

C. Marks Professor and Chairperson,  
*Department of Economics, Cornell University*

Launch of "Arguments for a Better World" and Inaugural Address

**Manmohan Singh**

Honourable Prime Minister of India

Address

**Amartya Sen**

Professor, *Harvard University* and Nobel Laureate

Remarks

**Henry Reece**

Secretary to the Delegates and Chief Executive,  
*Oxford University Press*

Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks

**Ravi Kanbur**

T.H.Lee Professor of World Affairs and Economics,  
*Cornell University*

**Rapporteur:** Sunil Kumar, DPhil Candidate, *University of East Anglia*

**1115-1145: TEA BREAK**

**1145-1400**

**PANEL I: GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Chairperson**

**M.S. Swaminathan**, Member of Parliament and  
Chairperson, *M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation*

**Speakers**

**Emma Rothschild**, Professor, *Harvard University and Cambridge University*

**Edmund Phelps**, Professor, *Columbia University* and Nobel Laureate

**Lord Meghnad Desai**, Professor Emeritus, *London School of Economics* and  
Member, House of Lords

**Joseph Stiglitz**, Professor, *Columbia University* and Nobel Laureate

**Amartya Sen**, Professor, *Harvard University* and Nobel Laureate

**Rapporteur:** Swagato Sarkar, D.Phil Candidate, *University of Oxford*

**1400-1500:** LUNCH

**1500-1700: YOUNG RESEARCHERS' PRESENTATIONS:  
PARALLEL SESSIONS I, II, III & IV**

**1700-1715:** TEA BREAK

**1715-1845: YOUNG RESEARCHERS' PRESENTATIONS:  
PARALLEL SESSIONS V, VI, VII & VIII**

**1930:** RECEPTION AND DINNER

Venue: Silver Oak, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2008

Venue: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

0930-1045

### PANEL II: INDIA AND THE WORLD

#### Chairperson

**Yoginder K Alagh**, Former Union Minister and Former Vice-Chancellor, *Jawaharlal Nehru University*

#### Speakers

**Montek Singh Ahluwalia**, Deputy Chairperson, *Planning Commission*, Govt. of India

**Aruna Roy**, Chairperson, *Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan*

**Nandan Nilekani**, Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors, *Infosys Technologies Ltd.*

**Rapporteur:** Rukmini Tankha, Research Associate, *Institute for Human Development*, New Delhi

1045-1115: TEA BREAK

1115-1245

### Panel II: INDIA AND THE WORLD (Contd.)

**Jaswant Singh**, Leader of Opposition, *Rajya Sabha*

**Shabana Azmi**, Actor, Social Activist and Former Member of Parliament

**Sitaram Yechury**, Member of Parliament, *Rajya Sabha*

**Kapil Sibal**, Union Minister for Science and Technology, *Govt. of India*

**Rapporteur:** Smita Das, Doctoral Candidate, *University of Ulster*

1245-1430: LUNCH

**1430-1630**

**Panel III: VISION FOR A NEW SOUTH ASIA**

**Chairperson**

**Pranab Mukherjee**, Minister for External Affairs, Govt. of India

**Speakers**

**Rehman Sobhan**, Chairperson, *Centre for Policy Dialogue*, Dhaka

**Arjun Sengupta**, Member of Parliament and Chairperson, *National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector*, Govt. of India

**Kanak Mani Dixit**, Editor, *Himal*, Kathmandu

**Saman Kelegama**, Director, *Institute for Policy Studies*, Colombo

**Asma Jahangir**, Chairperson, *Human Rights Commission of Pakistan*

**Muchkund Dubey**, Chairperson, *Council for Social Development* and Former Foreign Secretary, Govt. of India

**Rapporteur:** Ann George, PhD Candidate, *Madras Institute of Development Studies*

**1630-1700: TEA BREAK**

**1700-1800**

**INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH PROFESSOR AMARTYA SEN AND CONFERENCE CLOSING**

**Chairperson**

**Martha Nussbaum**, Professor of Law and Ethics, *University of Chicago*

**Opening Remarks**

**Kaushik Basu**, C. Marks Professor and Chairperson, *Department of Economics, Cornell University*

**Ravi Kanbur**, T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs and Economics, *Cornell University*

**Address and Interaction with the Audience**

**Amartya Sen**, Professor, *Harvard University* and Nobel Laureate

**Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks**

**Alakh N Sharma**, Professor and Director, *Institute for Human Development*

## PRESENTATIONS BY YOUNG RESEARCHERS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2008

Venue: Vigyan Bhavan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi

1500-1700

Parallel Session I: **Poverty, Inequality and Economic Growth: Conceptual and Empirical Issues**

Venue: Hall No.6

### Chairperson

A.K. Shiva Kumar, Advisor, *UNICEF India*

### Presentations

**Ben Suwankiri**, PhD Candidate, *Cornell University*

**Are We There Yet? Escaping Poverty Traps with Redistribution**

**Diganta Mukherjee**, Associate Professor, *ICFAI Business School, Kolkata*

**Pareto Honouring Poverty Reduction**

**Kumara P.H.T.**, Lecturer, *Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka*

**Decomposing Spatial Inequality in Sri Lanka: A Quantile Regression Analysis**

**Mario Negre**, PhD Scholar, *Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi*

**Conceptualising and Measuring Pro-Poor Growth: A Case Study of Honduras**

### Discussants

**Bhaskar Dutta**, Professor, *University of Warwick*

**Siddiqur R.Osmani**, Professor, *University of Ulster*

**Sudipto Mundle**, Professor Emeritus, *National Institute of Public Finance and Policy*

**Winston Dookeran**, Political Leader, *Congress of the People, Trinidad*

1500-1700

Parallel Session II: **Gender-Based Discrimination, Women's Autonomy and Governance**

Venue: Hall No. 4

### Chairperson

Bina Agarwal, Professor, *Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi*

### Presentations

**Arjun Singh Bedi**, Professor, *Institute of Social Studies, The Hague* and **Sharada Srinivasan**, Assistant Professor, *York University, Canada*

**Tackling Daughter Deficits in Tamil Nadu, India**

**Jas Ellis**, PhD Candidate, *London School of Economics*

**Son Preference and Sex Ratios: How Many 'Missing Women' are Missing?**

**Sunny Jose**, Associate Professor, *Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur*

**Does Female Autonomy Lead to Their Better Nutritional Attainment? Evidence from India**

**J. Vanishree**, Lecturer, *Gandhigram Rural University*, Tamil Nadu, India  
**Women in Local Governance: An Analysis of Their Agency Functions**

**Discussants**

**Sabina Alkire**, Director, *Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative*, University of Oxford  
**Mahendra Dev**, Chairperson, *Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices*, Govt. of India  
**Sakiko Fukuda-Parr**, Professor, *The New School*, New York  
**Niraja Gopal Jayal**, Professor and Chairperson, *Centre for the Study of Law and Governance*,  
*Jawaharlal Nehru University*, New Delhi

**1500-1700**

**Parallel Session III: Unfolding of the Market Economy: Issues of Wages, Consumption and Insecurity**

**Venue: Hall No. 3**

**Chairperson**

**Abhijit Sen**, Member, Planning Commission, Govt. of India and Professor, *Jawaharlal Nehru University*

**Presentations**

**Gaurav Nayyar**, D.Phil Candidate, *University of Oxford*  
**The Demand for Services in India: A Mirror Image of Engel's Law for Food?**

**Shirin Akhtar**, Lecturer, *Zakir Hussain College*, University of Delhi  
**Wage Discrimination as a Result of Gender Bias: A Case Study of Delhi**

**Debdulal Saha**, PhD Scholar, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences*, Mumbai  
**Decent Work in the Urban Informal Sector: A Study of Street Vendors in Mumbai**

**Varinder Jain**, Research Scholar, *Centre for Development Studies*, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala  
**Economic Insecurity and Endangered Freedom to Decent Life: Examining Inter- and Intra-Household Differences**

**Discussants**

**Dipak Mazumdar**, Professor, *University of Toronto*  
**Ajit Ghose**, Formerly Senior Economist, *International Labour Organisation*  
**Minar Pimple**, Deputy Director-Asia, UN Millennium Campaign  
**Ashwani Saith**, Professor, *Institute of Social Studies*, The Hague

**1500-1700**

**Parallel Session IV: Limits of Democracy, Markets and Civil Society**

**Venue: Hall No. 2**

**Chairperson**

**Jean Drèze**, Visiting Professor, *Allahabad University*

**Presentations**

**Swagato Sarkar**, D.Phil Candidate, *University of Oxford*  
**Representation, Exclusion and Development: The Crisis of Indian Populist Politics**

**Aseem Prakash**, Senior Fellow, *Institute for Human Development*, New Delhi  
**Caste, Markets and Accumulation: Dalit Entrepreneurs in Urban Middle India**



**Aisulu Masykhanova**, Professional Development Intern, *Aga Khan Foundation, U.S.A*  
**Does Bonding Limit Bridging? Social Capital and the Indian Community in Uganda**

**Eric Perich**, Post Graduate Student, *Wayne State University, USA* & **Fuad Hasanov**, Associate Professor, *Oakland University, USA*  
**Violent Crime: Does Happiness Matter?**

#### **Discussants**

**Sunil Khilnani**, Director, *South Asia Studies, The Johns Hopkins University, USA*

**Ashutosh Varshney**, Professor, *Brown University, USA*

**Ingrid Robeyns**, Professor, *Erasmus University, The Netherlands*

**Surinder S Jodhka**, Director, *Institute for Dalit Studies and Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University*

**1700 -1715: TEA BREAK**

**1715-1845**

**Parallel Session V: Institutions Affecting Inclusion**

**Venue: Hall No. 2**

#### **Chairperson**

**S.K. Thorat**, Chairperson, University Grants Commission and Professor, *Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi*

#### **Presentations**

**Victor Kotsev**, Graduate Student, *University of Notre Dame*

**Peace and/or Justice? A Discussion of Some Legal and Moral Dilemmas Involved in the ICC Court Case against the LRA in Uganda**

**Nishith Prakash**, Assistant Professor, *Ohio University*

**Impact of Reserving Jobs for Minorities on Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from India**

**Smita Das**, Doctoral Candidate, *University of Ulster*

**Caste, Religion and Poverty in India: An Analysis of 61<sup>st</sup> Round NSS Data**

#### **Discussants**

**D. N. Reddy**, Formerly Dean, *School of Social Sciences, Hyderabad University*

**K. P. Kannan**, Member, National Commission for Enterprises in Unorganised Sector, Govt. of India and Professor, *Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram*

**Rajat Deb**, Professor, *Southern Methodist University*

1715-1845

**Parallel Session VI: Philosophical and Analytical Issues: Rational Choice, (Un)Freedom and Construction of Knowledge**

Venue: Hall No. 3

**Chairperson**

Rizwanul Islam, Special Advisor, *International Labour Organisation*, Geneva

**Presentations**

**Barada Laxmi Panda**, Research Scholar, *Indian Institute of Technology*, Bombay  
Sen on Rational Choice

**Swapnendu Banerjee**, Lecturer, *Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics*, Pune  
Gestational Surrogacy Contracts: Altruistic or Commercial? - A Contract Theoretic Approach

**Ann George**, PhD Candidate, *Madras Institute of Development Studies*  
Freedoms and Un-freedoms of the Poor: Learning from Their Lived Experiences

**Discussants**

Satish Jain, Professor, *Jawaharlal Nehru University*

Kaushik Basu, Professor and Chairperson, *Department of Economics, Cornell University*

Maurice Salles, Professor, *University of Caen, France*

1715-1845

**Parallel Session VII: Global Economy: Issues in Production Chains, Outsourcing and International Migration**

Venue: Hall No. 4

**Chairperson**

Isher Judge Ahluwalia, Chairperson, *Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations*, New Delhi

**Presentations**

**Mallika Shakya**, Economic Anthropologist, *The World Bank*  
Mao's Cultural Capital in Nepal: How Nepal Designs Readymade Garments for the Global Market

**Rukmini Tankha**, Research Associate, *Institute for Human Development*, New Delhi  
Work, Work Organisation and Freedom: Findings from an Exploratory Study of Call Centre Employees

**Hyejin Ku**, Assistant Professor, *Florida State University*  
Labour Migration as Price Arbitrage: Theory and Evidence from Mexican Workers in the USA

**Discussants**

Barbara Harriss-White, Director, *Contemporary S. Asia Studies Programme, University of Oxford*

S. Subramanian, Professor, *Madras Institute of Development Studies*

Gerry Rodgers, Former Director, *International Institute for Labour Studies*, Geneva

1715-1845

**Parallel Session VIII: Perspectives and Issues in Credit and Credit Delivery**

**Venue: Hall No. 6**

**Chairperson**

**G K Chadha**, Member, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and Chief Executive, *South Asian University*

**Presentations**

**Rajlakshmi Mallik**, Associate Professor, *NSHM Business School, Kolkata*

**Identifying the Credit Rationed Households: Some Observations from Assam**

**Suman Ghosh**, Assistant Professor and **Eric VanTassel**, Chairperson, Dept of Economics, *Florida Atlantic University*

**Mission-Drift in Microfinance Institutions**

**Kaniska Dam**, Assistant Professor, *Centre for Research and Teaching in Economics, Mexico City*  
**A Two-Sided Matching Model of Monitored Finance**

**Discussants**

**Alakh N Sharma**, Professor and Director, *Institute for Human Development*

**Ravi Srivastava**, Member, *National Commission for Enterprises in Unorganised Sector, Govt. of India* and Professor, *Jawaharlal Nehru University*

**Ravi Kanbur**, Professor, *Cornell University*

### **Conference Coordinators**

Kaushik Basu, C. Marks Professor and Chairperson, *Department of Economics, Cornell University*

Ravi Kanbur, T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs and Professor of Economics, *Cornell University*

Alakh N. Sharma, Professor and Director, *Institute for Human Development.*

### **Associate Coordinators**

Aseem Prakash, Senior Fellow, *Institute for Human Development*

Shashikala Menon, Fellow, *Institute for Human Development*

### **Conference Secretariat**

Institute for Human Development,  
NIDM Building, IIPA Campus, IP Estate,  
New Delhi-110002

Tel.: +91-11-23358166, 23321610; Fax: +91-11-23765410

Email: [senconference@gmail.com](mailto:senconference@gmail.com) ; [ihd@vsnl.com](mailto:ihd@vsnl.com)

