

# Institutions AND Public Policy

Centre for Budget and Policy Studies

Celebrating  
**25**  
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S  
Meaningful  
Years of Existence

## Conference Agenda

### Date

16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>  
March 2023

### Venue

JRD TATA Auditorium,  
NIAS Gate, IISc campus  
Bengaluru - 560012



## **The Centre for Budget and Policy Studies**

**(CBPS)** is a non-partisan, non-profit independent public policy research institution based in Bengaluru. For the past two and a half decades, we have been working in the areas of [education](#), [gender](#), [governance](#), [health](#) and [sanitation](#). We work on research, evaluation and evidence-based policy advocacy engaging with issues of equity, justice, empowerment, democracy and accountability. To celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year, we are hosting a 2-day conference titled **Institutions and Public Policy on March 16-17, 2023 in Bengaluru.**

The objective of the conference is to explore the relationship between institutions and public policy. The themes of the conference are as follows:

### **Independent Institutions and Policy Discourse**

The opening and closing plenaries as well as the keynote speeches will engage with the role of independent institutions and the importance of creating and sustaining local institutions that can help build an engaged citizenry.

### **Gender and Public Spaces**

Access to public spaces, viewed as a physical, cultural, economic and social space is crucial for the functioning of democratic processes. In this theme, we will explore the gendered experiences within public spaces, and the laws and rights that govern public spaces.

### **Education as a Public Good**

When education is administered as an empowering process, it has the potential to be truly transformative. The notion of education as a public good can be examined through understanding of institutional autonomy and accountability, in addition to mapping quality, equity and inclusion.

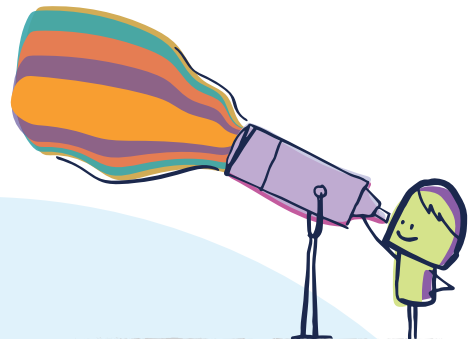


### **Public Finance and Governance**

While 'budgets' are a central site of public discourse, the structure and processes are largely ignored. Understanding governing institutions and actions, the fiscal health of governing bodies, and the political economy of the budget is central to democratic processes.

### **Health and Social Security**

Understanding the functioning of public institutions and social security / protection systems is a central aspect of analysing public policies. In keeping with the centrality of this theme, we will explore aspects of nutrition, health care, public health and livelihoods.





**9:30am - 1:30pm**

**Inaugural Plenary Session: JRD Tata Auditorium**

**9:30am to 10:00am**  
**Registration**

**10:00am to 10:30am**  
**Setting the Context**

Introduction to the Conference  
CBPS' journey and work

**10:30am to 11:45am**  
**Opening Keynote Speech**

**Aruna Roy**, Social Activist and Founder - Member,  
Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan

**11:15am to 11:30am - Tea break**

**11:30am to 1:00pm**

**Panel Discussion on Building and Sustaining Independent Institutions**

Panel of speakers:

**Jayna Kothari**, Co- founder and Executive Director, Centre for Law and Policy Research, Bengaluru

**N V Varghese**, Former Vice Chancellor, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi

**Shyam Menon**, Vice Chancellor, BML Munjal University, Gurgaon and former Vice Chancellor, Dr BR Ambedkar University Delhi

**Sidharth Vardarajan**, Journalist and Founding Editor, The Wire, New Delhi

Convenor

**M S Sriram**, Faculty Member, Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore

**1:00pm to 1:30pm**

**Closing Comments and Speech by Chief Guest**

**Shantha Sinha**, Founding Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Founder-Secretary of MV Foundation

**1:30pm to 2:30pm - Lunch**



**6:30pm - 8:00pm**

**Public Lecture: JRD Tata Auditorium**

**6:30pm to 8:00pm**

**Institutions and Public Policy: Reflections on CBPS@25**

**Vinod Vyasulu**, Consulting Economist,  
Ex-Director and Co-Founder, Centre for Budget and Policy Studies (CBPS), Bengaluru

Invited comments:

**D. Rajashekar**, Director, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru

**Rishiksha T. Krishnan**, Director and Professor of Strategy, Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru

**Shreelata Rao Seshadri**, Professor and Director, Ramalingaswami Centre for Equity and Social Determinants of Health, PHFI, Bengaluru

**Sudhir Krishnaswamy**, Vice-Chancellor of the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru and co-Founder of Centre for Law and Policy Research

**8:00pm onwards - Dinner and Informal Discussions**

**2:30pm - 5:30pm**



**Thematic Sessions: JRD Tata Auditorium and NIAS Conference Room 2**

**2:30pm to 3:30pm - Parallel Sessions**

**Session 1: Gender and Public Spaces**

**Session 2: Public Finance and Governance**

Chair and invited speaker

**Sarojini Ganju Thakur**, Retired Civil Servant and Chairperson, Indian Institute of Social Studies Trust, New Delhi

Chair and invited speaker

**Avani Kapur**, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research and Lead, Accountability Initiative, New Delhi

**3:30pm to 3:45pm - Tea Break**

**3:45pm to 5:30pm- Parallel Sessions**

**Session 1: Gender and Public Spaces**

**Session 2: Public Finance and Governance**

Paper presentations by young scholars

Paper presentations by young scholars

**5:30pm to 6:30pm - Break**

9:30am - 1:30pm



**Thematic Sessions: JRD Tata Auditorium and NIAS Conference Room 2**

**9:30am to 10:30am - Registration and Informal Discussions**

**10:30am to 11:30am: Parallel Sessions**

**Session 3: Education as a Public Good**

Chair and invited speaker  
**Rohit Dhankar**, Professor, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru and Founder-Secretary, Digantar, Jaipur

**Session 4: Health and Social Security**

Chair and invited speaker  
**K Srinath Reddy**, Founder (Past) President and Honorary Distinguished Professor, Public Health Foundation of India and Former Head of Cardiology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

**11:30am to 11:45am - Tea Break**

**11:45am to 1:30pm: Parallel Sessions**

**Session 3: Education as a Public Good**

Paper presentations by young scholars

**Session 4: Health and Social Security**

Paper presentations by young scholars

**1:30pm to 2:30pm - Lunch**



**Closing Plenary Session: JRD Tata Auditorium**

**2:30pm to 3:45pm**

**Panel Discussion on Role of Independent Institutions in Policy Discourse and Delivery**

Panel of Speakers  
**Avani Kapur**  
**Rohit Dhankar**  
**Sarojini Ganju Thakur**  
**Srinath Reddy**

Convenors

**Jyotsna Jha**, Director, CBPS  
**Niveditha Menon**, Deputy Director, CBPS

**3:45pm to 4:00pm - Tea break**

**4:00pm to 4:45pm**

**Closing Keynote Speech**

**Ashwani Saith**, Professor Emeritus, International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague; former Professor & Director, Development Studies Institute, LSE

**4:45pm to 5:15pm**

**Closing Comments and Speech by Chief Guest**

**J V R Prasada Rao**, former Union Health Secretary, Government of India and former UN SG Special Envoy on AIDS in Asia Pacific

**5:15pm to 5:30pm - Vote of Thanks**

