

NXT

SUMMIT & FELLOWSHIP 2026

NEW DELHI

DEBRIEF



NXT Foundation

AN NXT FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of Bharat
at NXT 2026

“India is next”

We are building next generation digital infra. We are building next generation physical infra. If you want to be part of the future, you must be associated with India, you must be in India.”



PM Modi meets India's Gaganauts along with NASA Astronaut Scott Kelly at NXT 2026.

12th March, 2026. New Delhi



1st Assembly of the NXT Parliamentarians Forum

From Left to Right (Front Row): **Mr. Alan Beesley** (Member, National Assembly, South Africa), **Dr. Martin Daly, TD** (Member of Dáil Éireann, Ireland), **Ms. María del Carmen Alva Prieto** (Member of Congress, Peru), **Rt. Hon. Shivani Raja** (Member of House of Commons, UK), **Deputy Marcela Guerra Castillo** (Member of Chamber of Deputies, Mexico), **Ms. Modesta Petrauskaitė** (Member of the Seimas, Lithuania), **Mr. Meekail Ahmed Nasym** (Member of Parliament, Maldives), **Lord Ross Kempsell, Baron Kempsell** (Member of House of Lords, UK), **Shri Narendra Modi** (Prime Minister of Bharat), **Mr. Stuart Smith** (Member of House of Representatives, New Zealand), **Mr. Tangi Utikere** (Member of House of Representatives, New Zealand), **Hon. Rachel Brooking** (Member of House of Representatives, New Zealand), **Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna** (Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka), **Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe** (Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka), Hon. Saidulla M. Marikkar (Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka), **Hon. Jayadewa C. Alawathuwala** (Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka), **Hon. S. Sanjaya Perera** (Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka), **Senator Ibrahim Hassan ambo** (Member of the Nigerian Senate), **Hon. Darren Bergman** (Member, National Assembly, South Africa).
From Left to Right (Back Row): **Senator Adéla Šípová** (Member of Senate, Czech Republic), **HE Chanthavong Seneamatmontry** (Member, National Assembly, Lao PDR), **Mr. Aindrias Ó Muimhneacháin, TD** (Member of Dáil Éireann, Ireland), **Mr. Malcolm Byrne, TD** (Member of Dáil Éireann, Ireland), **Dr. Malte Kaufmann** (Member of the Bundestag, Germany), **Madame Deputy Laetitia Saint-Paul** (Member, National Assembly, France), **MP Timo Harakka** (Member of Eduskunta, Finland), **MP Ville Skinnari** (Member of Eduskunta, Finland), **Mr. Andrei Korobeinik, Liige** (Member of the Riigikogu, Estonia), **Dasho Sangay Khandu** (Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Bhutan), **Mr. Jeppe Søe** (Member of the Folketing, Denmark), **Hon. Senator Enrique Martin Goerling Lara** (Member of Senate, Argentina), **Deputy Sergio Capozzi** (Member of Chamber of Deputies, Argentina), **Hon. Balkrishna Babajee** (Member of Parliament, Mauritius).

From Left to Right: Hon. Scott J. Morrison (30th Prime Minister of Australia), **Hon. Fredrik Reinfeldt** (32nd Prime Minister of Sweden), **Shri Narendra Modi** (Prime Minister of Bharat) **& Shri Baburam Bhattarai** (36th Prime Minister of Nepal).



PM Modi meets delegates of the 1st Assembly of the NXT Parliamentarians Forum.

Shri Narendra Modi

Prime Minister of Bharat
at NXT 2026

“India is next

We are building next generation digital infra. We are building next generation physical infra. If you want to be part of the future, you must be associated with India, you must be in India.”





Kartikeya Sharma
Founder, NXT
Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha
Bharat

Foreword

Shaping the Future of Humankind

When we conceptualized the NXT 2026 Summit, our objective was clear yet profoundly ambitious: to construct a world-class, collaborative ecosystem in New Delhi that bridges the finest minds of Bharat with the global community. We envisioned a premier international forum where statespersons, policymakers, academics, and industry pioneers could bypass standard rhetoric and engage in unfiltered, high-impact dialogue. As we look back on the extraordinary outcomes across two editions of NXT, I am deeply proud to say that the vision of NXT has transitioned from a bold blueprint into a catalytic reality.

Hosting this second edition at the iconic Bharat Mandapam underscored India's emerging role as a crucial nexus for international cooperation, digital transformation, and societal innovation. The presence of our Chief Guest, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, alongside esteemed international statespersons and senior Union Cabinet Ministers, lent unparalleled depth to our discussions.

Together, we explored the critical frontiers that will inevitably define the future of humanity—ranging from the legal complexities of artificial intelligence and quantum computing to the boundless potential of space exploration, green energy, and sustainable governance.

What truly distinguished NXT 2026, however, was its commitment to institutionalizing multi-generational, global partnerships. The successful convocation of the 1st Assembly of the NXT Parliamentarians Forum brought together over 100 legislative leaders from more than 37 countries, driving a unified focus on cross-border policy alignment. Simultaneously, through the launch of the NXT Fellowship, we welcomed brilliant researchers and students from the world's most renowned universities into an intense immersion experience. By linking global lawmakers with the next generation of thought leaders, NXT has established a continuous pipeline for forward-thinking solutions.

This debrief is far more than a summary of the speeches, panel debates, and strategic roundtables that animated New Delhi over those three historic days. It is a strategic playbook and a testament to what can be achieved when global change-makers unite with a shared sense of responsibility. The ideas sparked and the partnerships forged here have laid the groundwork for actionable policy, future investments, and pioneering initiatives. As you read through these pages, I invite you to join us in this ongoing journey—championing the collaborative spirit of NXT 2026 to co-author a sustainable, inclusive, and technologically empowered future for humankind.

I would encourage you to see a visual summary of the summit's major sessions and high-profile international speakers, which captures the event's atmosphere and key milestones.

Kartikeya Sharma
Founder, NXT
Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

Mr. Kartikeya Sharma is an Indian entrepreneur and philanthropist. A Member of Parliament of India's upper house (Rajya Sabha). He currently sits on the Parliamentary Committees on Communication & IT, Subordinate Legislation, Rules & Privileges. He's a member of the Indian Council of World Affairs.

Educated in Oxford with an MBA from King's College in London, he also owns and runs three sporting leagues in Wrestling, Boxing and Polo. He's the founder & promoter of the iTV Network, one of India's largest media groups with 1,200 journalists across 17 major bureaus, operating nine news channels, including NewsX & NewsX World and five newspapers, including The Sunday Guardian.

Through the Sunday Guardian Foundation and the iTV Foundation he does philanthropic work in health across India. The foundation's flagship programme, 'NaMo Shakti' is the world's largest Breast Cancer Screening Mission.

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NXT in Space



From Left to Right: Capt. Scott Kelly (NASA Astronaut)**, Grp Capt. Shubhanshu Shukla** (Gaganaut)**, Grp Capt. Angad Pratap** (Gaganaut)**, Grp Capt. Ajit Krishnan** (Gaganaut)**, Shri Narendra Modi** (Prime Minister of Bharat)**, Grp Capt. Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair** (Gaganaut)**, Mr. Sanjay Nekkanti** (CEO, Dhruva Space)**, Mr. Anirudh Sharma** (CEO, Digantara)**, Mr. Suyash Singh** (CEO, GalaxEye)**.**

From Left to Right: Prof. Stephen M. Maurer (Emeritus Adjunct Professor of Public Policy, UC Berkeley)**, Prof. Arvind Mahajan** (Regents Professor, Texas A&M University)**, Prof. Jenny George** (Dean, Melbourne Business School)**, Prof. Omar Besbes** (Director, AI in Business Initiative, Columbia Business School)**, Prof. Bhaskar Chakravorti** (Dean of Global Business, The Fletcher School, Tufts University)**, Shri Narendra Modi** (Prime Minister of Bharat)**, Dr. Namit Choksi** (CEO, Tend Health)**, Mr. Sriram Natarajan** (Founder, Director & CEO, Molbio Diagnostics)**, Dr. Geetha Manjunath** (Founder, CEO, and CTO, NIRAMAI Health Analytix)**, Dr. Souvik Maiti** (Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology)**.**

NXT in Science & Education








for all humankind
SUMMIT
2026
BHARAT


INDIA ASCENDANT



“In this international dialogue, madame Chair and Colleagues, it was possible to observe the remarkable advancement of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who illustrated the pillars of this new stage in his country: public confidence, strong institutions, a vision of infrastructure, energy independence and self sufficiency in tech development which is inclusive and nationalistic.”

Deputy Marcella Guerra Castillo

Member, Chamber of Deputies, Mexico



ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT OF MEXICO

“Hon’ble Chairperson, Hon’ble Prime Minister Modi graciously and warmly received us in India. It was a great opportunity as young Sri Lankan leaders to study the progression and development in India which has a growth rate of 7%.”

Mr. Sujeewa Senasinghe

Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka



ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT OF SRI LANKA



Indeed, H.E the Prime Minister's message resonated deeply with the spirit of the conclave. My Bhutanese colleagues and I were especially inspired when he remarked, "If you want to be part of the future, you have to be connected with India."

Dasho Sangay Khandu

Deputy Speaker of Bhutan

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN

FROM BHUTAN DEPUTY SPEAKER



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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN

Deputy Speaker

DS-5/00509
Date: 08/04/2026

Dr. Aishwarya Pandit Sharma
Chairperson, NXT Foundation

Subject: Letter of Appreciations.

Dear Dr. Aishwarya Pandit Sharma,

I would like to extend my
extended during the NXT
shared and the connections
progress toward making ou
Indeed, H.E. the Prime M

Narendra Modi Ji, Prime Minister of India, in his keynote address emphasized the importance of innovation, digital transformation and global cooperation.

Senator Ibrahim Dankwambo

Member of Senate, Nigeria

NIGERIAN SENATE

REPORT OF NXT TO NIGERIAN SENATE



Above: Delegates of the 1st Assembly of the NXT Parliamentarians Forum visit India's old Parliament building.

Below: Hon. Stuart Smith, MP, Hon. Rachel Brooking, MP, Mr. Tangi Utikere, MP (Members of the House of Representatives, New Zealand) at the Ganga ghat in Varanasi.

Overview

An Idea Whose Time Has Come

As Chairperson of the NXT 2026 Summit, it is my privilege to present this comprehensive Rapporteurs' Debrief, which captures the strategic insights, policy frameworks, and pioneering ideas generated during our high-level assembly at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Grounded in the core theme of fostering global dialogue and multi-generational partnerships for the future of humankind, the summit served as a critical nexus connecting the finest legislative, scientific, and academic minds from across the globe.

The three-day summit was graced by **Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bharat**, who attended as the Chief Guest. In his opening address, the Prime Minister emphasized India's unwavering commitment to inclusive, technology-driven development and global cooperation.

We were equally privileged to welcome a distinguished panel of international statesmen as Guests of Honour, including; **Hon. Scott Morrison, 30th Prime Minister of Australia, Hon. Fredrik Reinfeldt, 32nd Prime Minister of Sweden** and **Shri Baburam Bhattarai, the 36th Prime Minister of Nepal** for the 2nd NXT Prime Ministers' Round Table. The assembly also received a special, forward-looking video message from Hon. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Former Prime Minister of Denmark.

Representing the apex of Indian institutional leadership, **Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India**, provided foundational remarks on modern governance and judicial evolution.

Crucial policy portfolios were articulated by senior members of the Union Cabinet, notably Shri Piyush Goyal (Union Minister of Commerce and Industry) alongside Dr. Jitendra Singh (Union Minister for the PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy, and Space), Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of Law & Justice.

The States of India were represented by Shri Nayab Singh Saini, Chief Minister of Haryana & Smt. Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of NCT of Delhi. We also had the privilege to host HE Hambyrajen Narsinghen, Jr. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Trade, Mauritius and Shri Sangay Khandu, Deputy Speaker of Bhutan, along with nearly 100 sitting Members of Parliament from across the globe including the UK, US, Germany, France, Denmark, Peru, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal, Mexico, Finland, Ireland, South Africa, Lao PDR, Nigeria, Chile, Argentina, Estonia, the Czech Republic and Lithuania. I am thankful for their effort in attending despite major travel disruptions at the time due to the rapidly emerging situation in the Straits of Hormuz.

The rapporteurs have meticulously documented the proceedings across 30 distinct themes and 93 sessions. Three focal domains stood out for their exceptional legislative and civil significance:

- Law, Justice, and the Frontier of AI: Led by Chief Justice Surya Kant, this session examined the intersection of rapid technological progress and judicial systems. The primary consensus established that while advanced algorithms can radically optimize administrative speed, the core responsibility of interpreting law must remain a fundamentally human, ethically grounded endeavour.
- Space Exploration and Technical Horizons: This track featured a rare, combined panel with former NASA astronaut Capt. Scott Kelly alongside India's four designated Gaganauts. Discussions centered on cross-border logistics, joint deep-space initiatives, and the growing civilian aerospace framework.
- The 1st Assembly of the NXT Parliamentarians Forum: A landmark session bringing together more than 100 Members of Parliament from over 40 countries to establish direct, collaborative policy alignment on global cybersecurity, green energy grids and cross-border tech innovation.

Dr. Aishwarya Pandit Sharma
Chairperson, NXT



Dr. Aishwarya Sharma
Chairperson, NXT

NXT



ABOUT NXT

NXT is a platform to connect the best of Bharat to the best of the World. Designed to host world-class showpiece calendar events in coordination with Central & State Governments.

NXT 2025 was launched by **Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bharat**. Tony Abbott, Former Prime Minister of Australia, Stephen Harper, Former Prime Minister of Canada & Ranil Wickremesinghe, Former President of Sri Lanka were Guests of Honour.

Attended by 83 foreign dignitaries including Physicists, Academicians, Entrepreneurs and Business leaders, the two-day inaugural event was held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Feb 28 & March 1.

NXT 2026 hosted **Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bharat** again as Chief Guest, Hon. Scott Morrison, 30th Prime Minister of Australia with Hon. Fredrik Reinfeldt, 32nd Prime Minister of Sweden and Shri Baburam Bhattarai, the 36th Prime Minister of Nepal, Hon. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Former Prime Minister of Denmark and Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India.

More than 100 sitting members of Parliament from across 40 nations, along with 100 NXT Fellows from international universities in 30 countries with Deans, Vice Chancellors attended across 3 days on 12th, 13th, 14th March, 2026.

NXT facilitated foreign dignitaries to meet with Indian counterparts from government and business and tour India.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor,
Member of Parliament, Bharat
in conversation with
Hon. Scott Morrison,
30th Prime Minister of Australia

NXT SUMMIT 2026 NEW DELHI

Mr. Justice Surya Kant
Chief Justice of India

VISION

To be a place where the world gathers to plan and work together on pioneering projects for all humankind.

To be a platform for hope, progress and action.

To bring together one world, one family to work on shared dreams and goals.

The 2nd NXT Prime Ministers' Round Table

From Left to Right: Shri Shaurya Doval (Founder, India Foundation - Moderator), Mr. Tangi Utikere, MP (Member of House of Representatives, New Zealand), Mr. Andrei Korobeinik, Liige (Member of the Riigikogu, Estonia), Dr. Martin Daly, TD (Member of Dáil Éireann, Ireland), Mr.Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe (Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka), and Dasho Sangay Khandu (Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Bhutan).

the next in

AI, Quantum Computing, Health, Medicine, Water, Green Energy, Governance, Travel, Law, Space, Sports, Wearables, Cyber Security, Money, Defence, Science, Media.

Ms. Smita Prakash (Editor-in-Chief & Deputy CEO, Asia News International (ANI) in conversation with Lord Ross Kempsell, Baron Kempsell (Member of the House of Lords, UK).



Featuring presentations, talks, awards, recognitions, panel discussions, side meetings and tours to bring the best minds in the world together with the the movers & shakers in Bharat.



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FELLOWSHIP 2026



The NXT Fellowship 2026 hosted 65 students and young leaders from 32 nations and 26 universities for a 10-day programme that included deep-dive sessions, briefings with parliamentarians and policy makers on a host of topics, industrial tours and cultural evenings.

Students published papers on an area of interest at the culmination of the fellowship on an area of research emanating from their experience and briefings.

They had an opportunity to interact with Hon. Fredrik Reinfeldt, 32nd Prime Minister of Sweden, Hon. Scott Morrison, 30th Prime Minister of Australia, Shri Baburam Bhattarai, 36th Prime Minister of Nepal, Smt. Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of Delhi, retired NASA Astronaut Captain Scott Kelly, Gaganyaan astronauts Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, Group Captain Angad Pratap, and Group Captain Ajith Krishnan Shri Tejasvi Surya (MP, Lok Sabha), Amb Harsh Shringla (MP, Rajya Sabha & Former Foreign Secretary) and members of Parliament from across the world.

NXT Fellows with Hon. Fredrik Reinfeldt, 32nd Prime Minister of Sweden (Front Row Centre)), Smt. Shakti Rani Sharma, Member of Legislative Assembly, Haryana (Front Row Left of Centre) & Mr. Kartikeya Sharma, Member of Parliament & Founder, NXT (Front Row Right of Centre).

NXT Fellows interacting with Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of Science & Technology; Earth Sciences; Prime Minister's Office; Dept. of Atomic Energy & Dept. of Space. Bharat at NXT 2026.





NXT Fellows with Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Bharat.

OBJECTIVES

1. Bring the brightest leaders for tomorrow from the world to experience Bharat
2. Create a global network through an alumni cohort of bright young minds, especially from STEM
3. Fellows to research and publish papers on India's rapid transformation across the world
4. Showcase an experience of India's culture from food, history, diversity, yoga & art
5. Create opportunities for further work & study for bright young foreign nationals in India
6. Promote guided tours, background briefings on policy & explore business ideas & collaboration

NXT Fellows with Smt. Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of Delhi.





NXT Fellows with Dr. Aishwarya Sharma, Chairperson, NXT.

NXT FELLOWSHIP 2026

26
GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES

32
PROFESSORS

65
STUDENT FELLOWS

STUDENTS & PROFESSORS FROM

University of Oxford · LSE · Australian National University · Queen Mary University of London · Reichman University · American University · Stanford University · Hamad Bin Khalifa University · Texas A&M University · Tel Aviv University · Columbia University · University of Cambridge · Durham University · The University of Tokyo · National Institute of Technology Rourkela · Harvard · University of California, Berkeley · Johns Hopkins University · Massachusetts Institute of Technology · Tufts University · Georgia Institute of Technology · South Asian University · Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati · Indian Institute of Technology Madras · Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee

NXT Fellows with Mr. Kartikeya Sharma, Member of Parliament & Founder, NXT.



The NXT Fellowship 2026 hosted a vital 40-minute masterclass conversation with Scott Morrison, the former Prime Minister of Australia. In this high-level dialogue, Morrison explored the complexities of contemporary geopolitics, speaking extensively on the strategic significance of the Indo-Pacific region and examining India's pivotal role within it.

The closed-door session provided a rare platform for the fellows to directly engage with the former Prime Minister, posing sharp questions on the growing geopolitical importance of the Indo-Pacific and the changing nature of modern global alliances.





The academic program continued with a focused 20-minute briefing led by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, centering on the evolution of urban leadership and regional growth. Chief Minister Gupta detailed the various ongoing development projects transforming the capital and outlined the strategic future of investment in Delhi.

Bringing a global dimension to the discourse, the session was attended by members of parliament from across the world, allowing the fellows and visiting legislators to engage in a high-level exchange on local governance, infrastructure, and transnational economic opportunities.

The fellows then engaged in a dedicated briefing with Kartikeya Sharma, Member of Parliament and founder of the NXT Fellowship, who offered an insider's perspective on India's macroeconomic trajectory. MP Sharma highlighted India's key developmental and economic achievements over the last decade, showcasing the country’s rapid transformation.

He detailed the expanding frontiers within Indian industry and outlined the massive market opportunities awaiting global stakeholders keen on doing business in India, fostering a dynamic two-way exchange on the nation's future as a global economic anchor.



NXT Fellows interact with NASA Astronaut Scott Kelly.

An intensive 30-minute briefing was led by Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Rajya Sabha MP and former Foreign Secretary of India. Drawing upon his extensive career at the highest levels of international diplomacy, Ambassador Shringla provided a masterclass focused on India's rapid rise in global diplomacy and its evolving role as a key geopolitical anchor.

It served as a rare window for the 65 fellows to unpack the nuances of strategic autonomy, giving them critical insights that directly informed their culminating research papers on modern international relations.

A specialized session led by Tejasvi Surya, Member of Parliament and a prominent voice for India's youth. Drawing on his unique perspective as a young parliamentarian, Surya engaged the cohort in a dynamic discussion regarding the current state of Indian affairs.

The closed-door format allowed for a candid exchange as he took questions on the unique challenges and opportunities facing the next generation, providing the fellows with first-hand insights into the expanding role of youth leadership in shaping national and global policy.

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The space frontier took center stage during a highly anticipated session featuring India’s Gaganyaan astronauts: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, Group Captain Angad Pratap, and Group Captain Ajith Krishnan. In an inspiring exchange at Bharat Mandapam, the crew offered the fellows a firsthand look into the demanding nature of contemporary astronaut training.

They detailed the physical, psychological, and technical preparations required for human spaceflight, while sharing insights into the future of India's independent space exploration initiatives.

The NXT Fellowship 2026 deepened its focus on international security with an essential masterclass featuring Ambassador Marc Sievers, a veteran American diplomat and former U.S. Ambassador to Oman. In this high-level, closed-door session, Ambassador Sievers engaged the fellows in a comprehensive analysis of contemporary global wars and volatile conflict zones.

He provided a critical masterclass on the evolving nature of America's role in the current world, unpacking the complexities of super-power diplomacy, regional stability, and national security strategies.

A specialised masterclass featuring Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Director of IIT Delhi. In this thought-provoking session, Prof. Banerjee analysed the rapid future of the energy and technology sectors, focusing extensively on the rise of Artificial Intelligence and its sweeping societal impacts.

Moving beyond pure technical metrics, he challenged the 65 fellows to look at engineering through a holistic lens, emphasising that technical and AI-driven advancements must ultimately be anchored in human well-being and the pursuit of human happiness.





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The NXT Fellowship 2026 turned its focus toward the future of communication with a specialised session led by journalist Ridhi Setty, who provided a 360-degree education on the transformation of the media landscape. In this masterclass, Setty analyzed the expanding role of AI and advanced tech in media, mapping out how automated tools are reshaping newsrooms, content distribution, and the role of AI in journalism.

Moving deeper into the core challenges of the digital age, she engaged the 65 fellows in a critical discussion on the evolving ethics of journalism, exploring how the next generation of global leaders can safeguard informational integrity in an increasingly automated world.

An exclusive masterclass with Sherub Dorji, an official representing the Gelephu Mindfulness City Authority in Bhutan. In this dedicated dialogue, Dorji detailed "The Gelephu Model"—a ground-breaking economic and urban framework designed as a Special Administrative Region to bridge South and Southeast Asia.

He mapped out how the proposed 2,500 square kilometer city will combine world-class, green-tech infrastructure driven entirely by renewable energy with the core philosophies of mindfulness and well-being.



International relations took center stage during a masterclass on global strategy featuring Ambassador Ajay Bisaria, former High Commissioner to Canada and Pakistan. Ambassador Bisaria unpacked the evolution of India's foreign policy from traditional non-alignment into a dynamic strategy of proactive multi-alignment.

The briefing detailed how India leverages issue-based minilateral coalitions and geoeconomic resilience to preserve its strategic autonomy while anchoring its position as a stabilizing power for the Global South.



The fellows engaged in an essential soft-power dialogue led by Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee, former Indian Ambassador to the Netherlands. The masterclass brought historical clarity to the colonial "Girmit" indentured labor system and its direct role in forging the modern global Indian Diaspora.

Ambassador Mukherjee focused on the historically silenced contributions of indentured women in preserving cultural identity, tracing how this reclaimed history has evolved into a vital pillar of India's contemporary diplomatic influence.







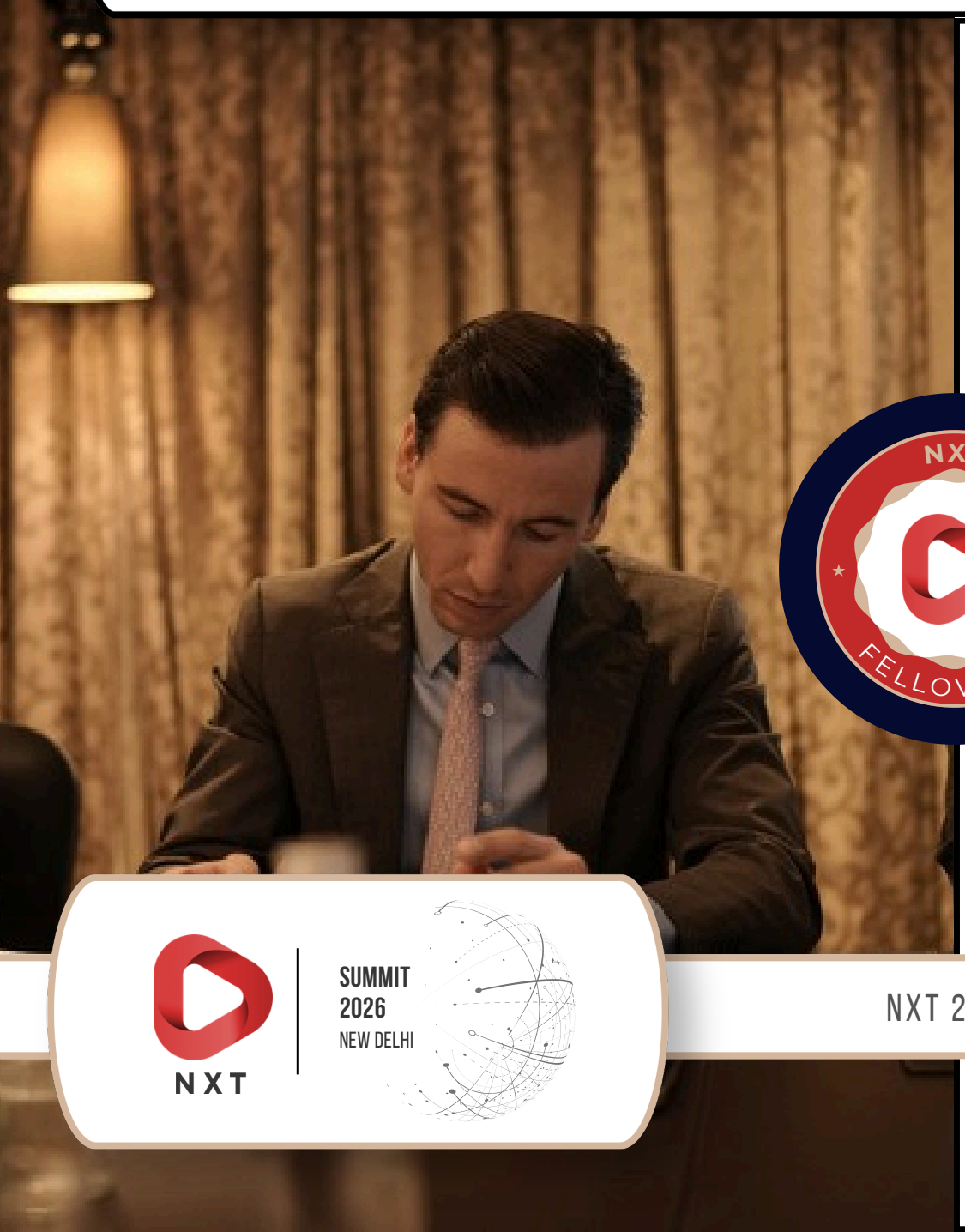
National security and modern warfare were analyzed in a profound strategic briefing by Lt. Gen. P. J. S. Pannu (Retd.), former Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff. Lt. Gen. Pannu provided a realistic assessment of how India balances its massive military power and nuclear triad capability with a principled policy of strategic autonomy.

The session challenged the fellows to examine the fracturing global security landscape, looking closely at how the nation navigates border threats, defense technology indigenization, and volatile international friction.



The academic program turned toward socio-economic drivers with a specialized briefing by Mitali Nikore, founder and Chief Economist of Nikore Associates. The session focused on women-led development as the core engine powering India's accelerating macroeconomic growth, highlighting massive surges in female labor force participation and startup leadership.

Nikore outlined the critical policy interventions required to integrate women-led enterprises into global trade chains and optimize strategic investments within the national care economy.

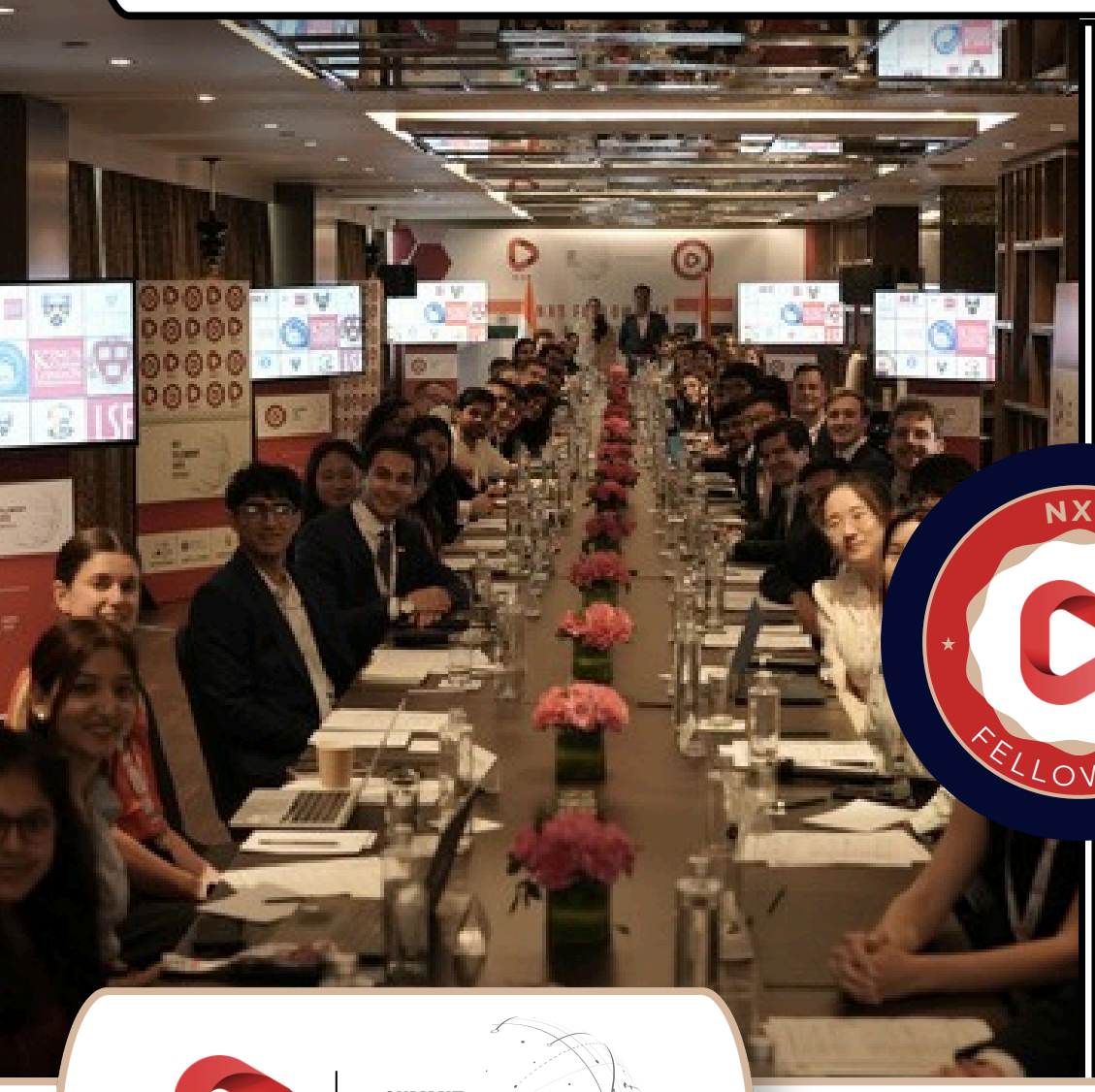


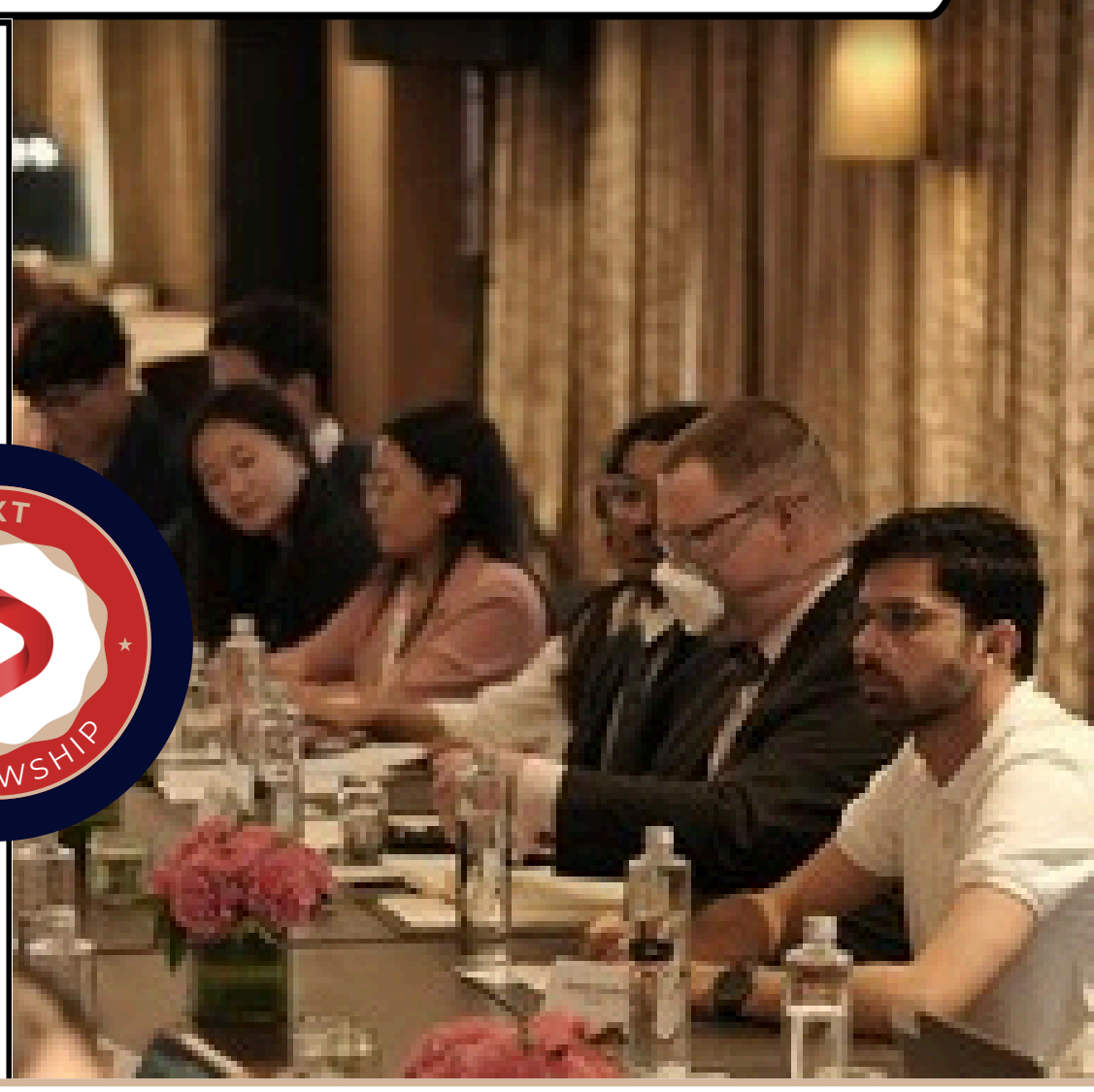




A high-level economic briefing led by Dr. K.V. Subramanian, Professor of Finance at ISB and former Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India. The masterclass explored the historic inflection point facing the nation, mapping out the structural reforms and institutional frameworks required to transform India into a $55 trillion economy by 2047.

Anchored in economic fundamentals and demographic potential, Dr. Subramanian engaged the fellows in a comprehensive discussion on the prioritized drivers necessary to sustain long-term, inclusive growth.



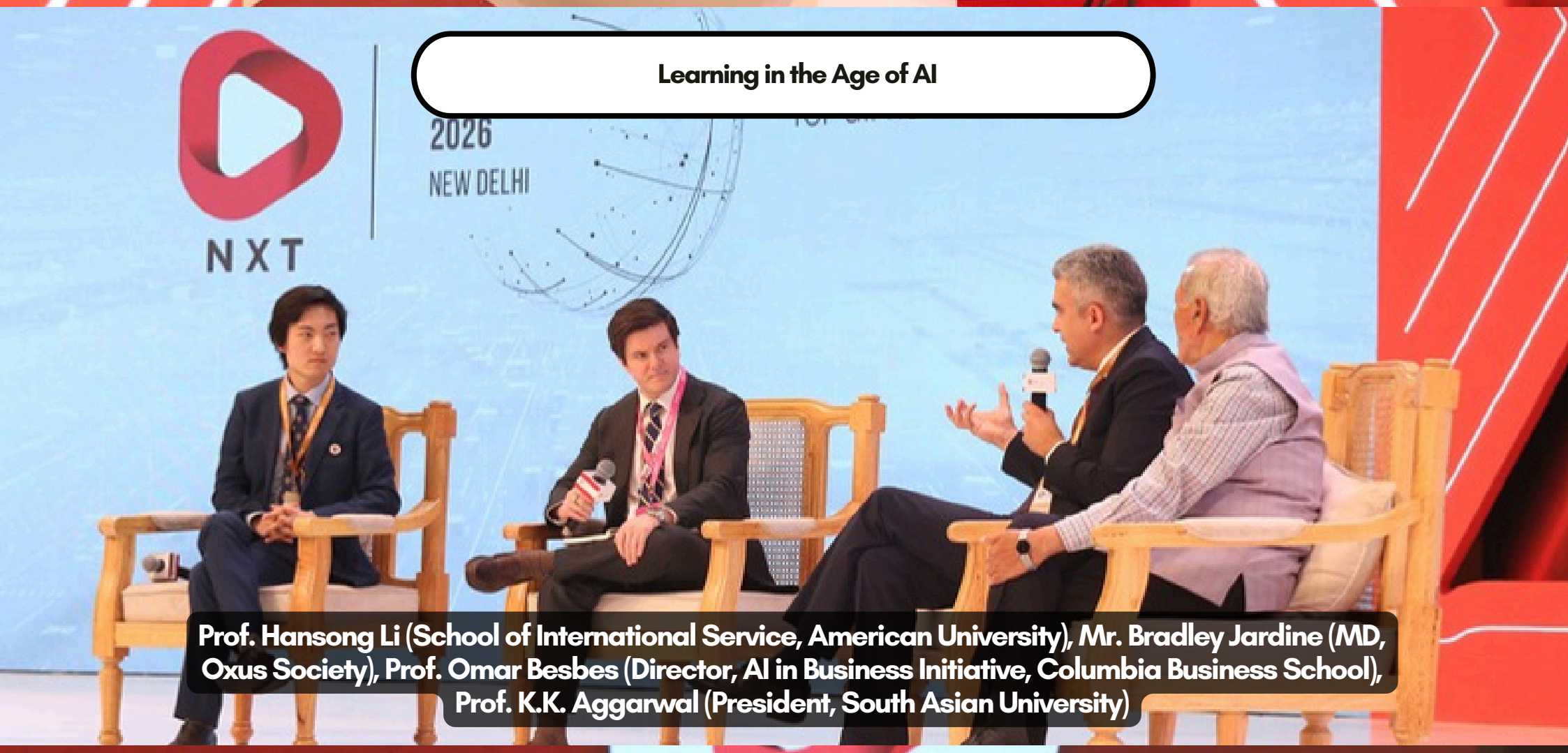


Keynote Address



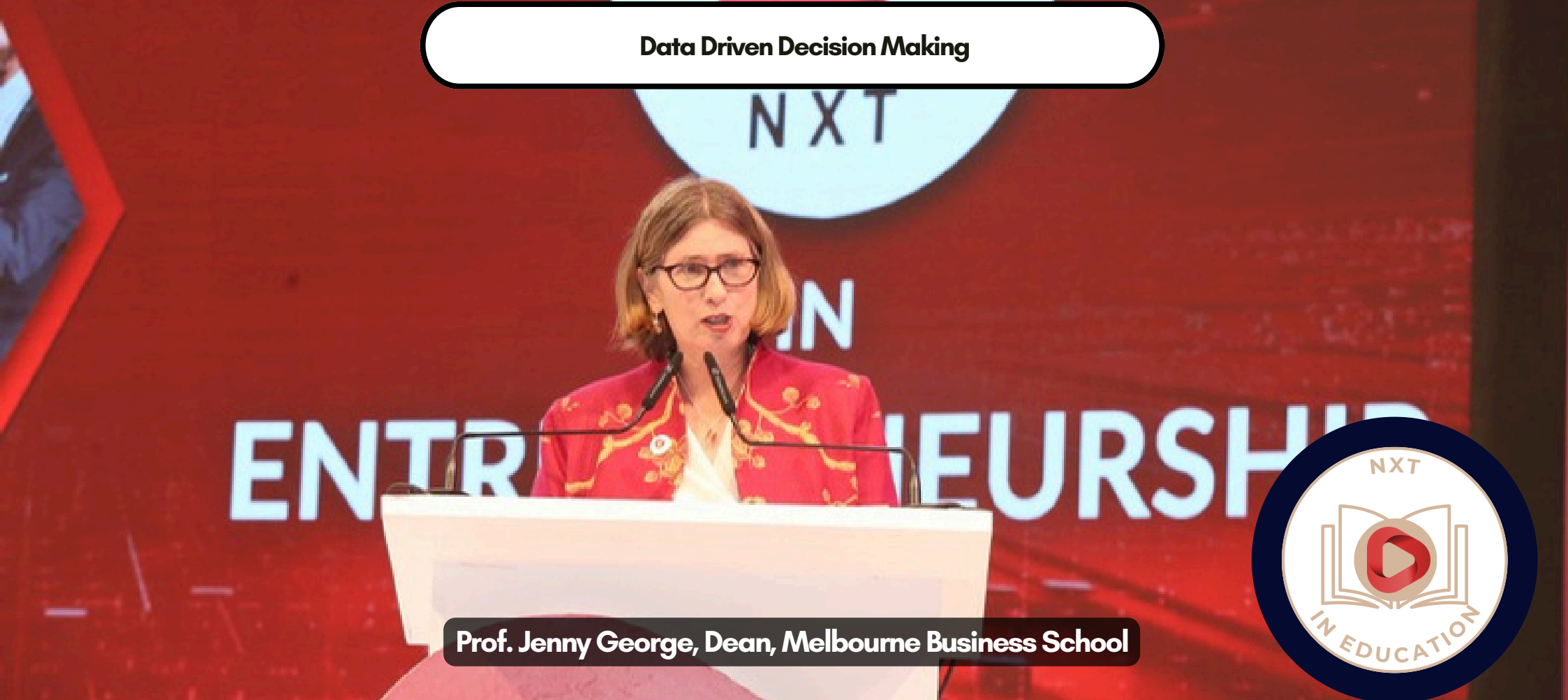
Dato Dr. Elizabeth Lee, Group CEO, Sunway Education Group

Learning in the Age of AI



Prof. Hansong Li (School of International Service, American University), Mr. Bradley Jardine (MD, Oxus Society), Prof. Omar Besbes (Director, AI in Business Initiative, Columbia Business School), Prof. K.K. Aggarwal (President, South Asian University)

Data Driven Decision Making



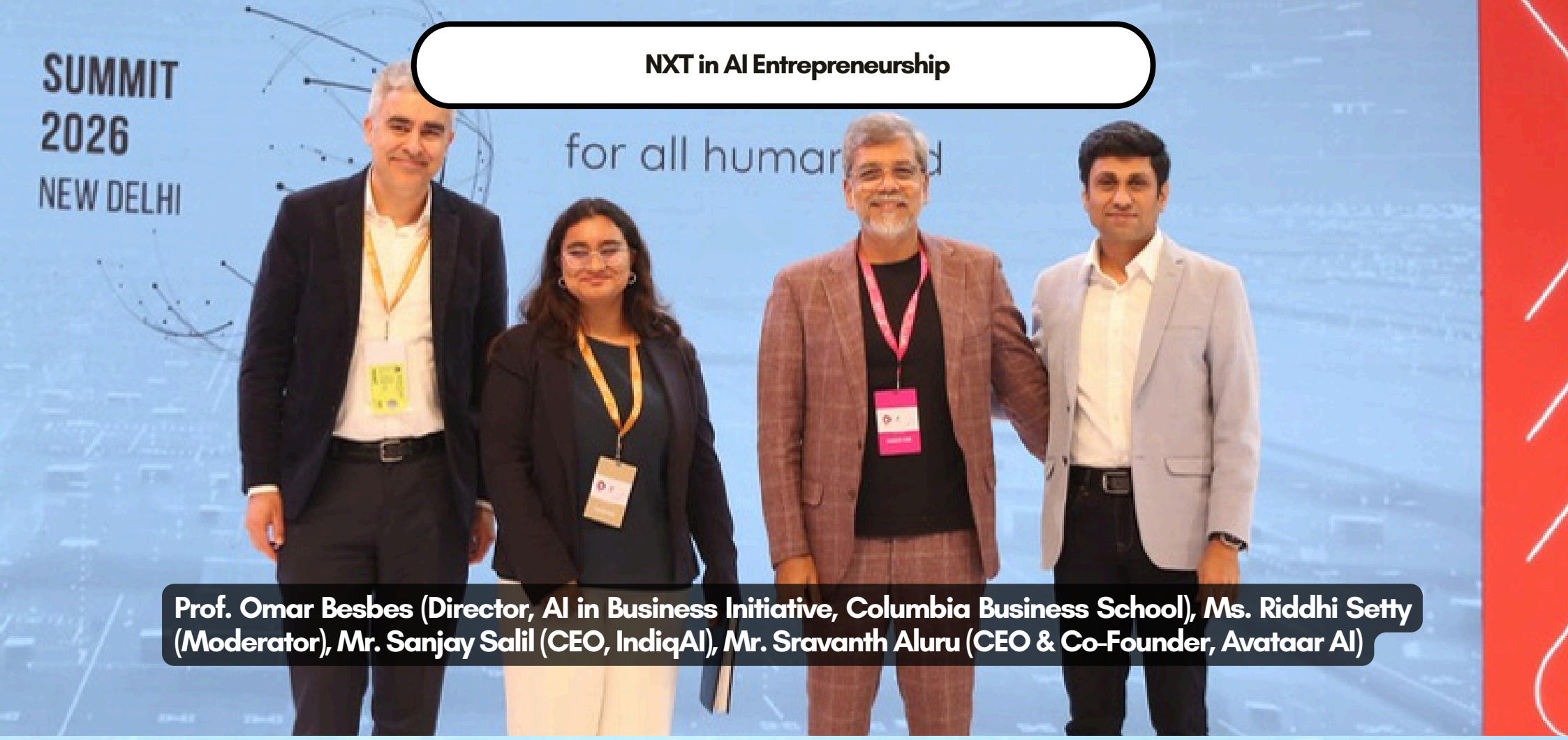
Prof. Jenny George, Dean, Melbourne Business School

The Future Role of Universities in Global Progress



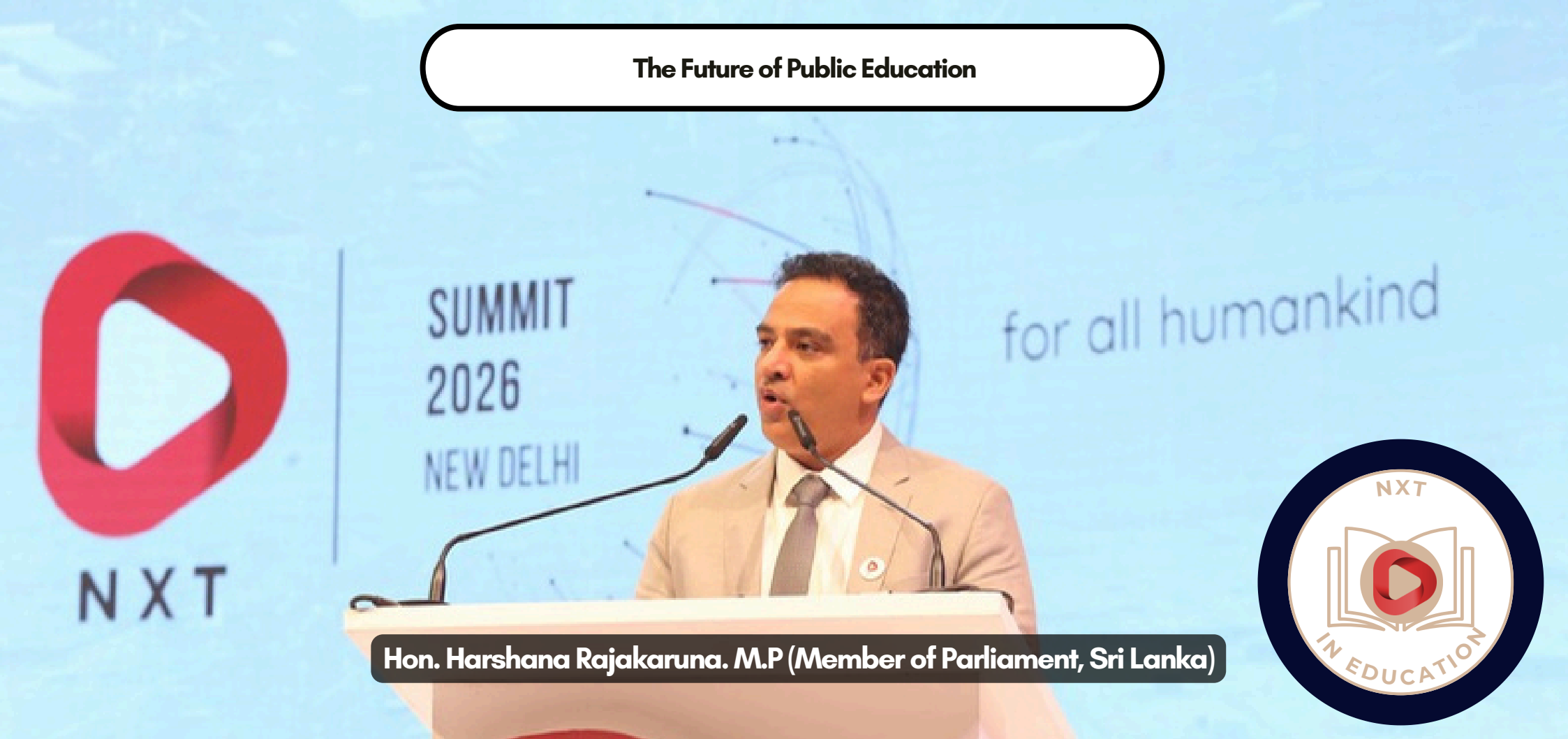
Ms. Devika Dlwan (Moderator), Prof. Dr. C. Raj Kumar (Founding Vice Chancellor, O.P Jindal Global University), Prof. Maya Tudor (Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford), Elayne Whyte Gomez (Professor of Practice, Johns Hopkins SAIS), Prof. Nivi Manchanda (Queen Mary University, London), Prof. Roberto Orsi (Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo)

NXT in AI Entrepreneurship



Prof. Omar Besbes (Director, AI in Business Initiative, Columbia Business School), Ms. Riddhi Setty (Moderator), Mr. Sanjay Salil (CEO, IndiqAI), Mr. Sravanth Aluru (CEO & Co-Founder, Avataar AI)

The Future of Public Education



Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna. M.P (Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka)

Real World Digital Governance Success Stories

Ms. Devika Diwan (Moderator) with Prof. Omar Besbes (Director, AI in Business Initiative, Columbia Business School) & Mr. S K Pandey (Deputy Director General, Aadhaar Services Division, NIC)

Rehabilitation Robotics

Prof. Sunil K. Agrawal, Director, ROAR Laboratory, Columbia University

The Future of BRICS

Prof. Georgy Toloraya, Professor, Russian Academy of Sciences

NXT in Defence

Ms. Devika Diwan (Moderator) with Mr. Stephen M. Maurer (Emeritus Adjunct Professor of Public Policy, UC Berkeley, Mr. Pankaj Chadha (Executive VP & Head Marine Platforms, Equipment and Systems, L&T), Mr. M V Reddy (Joint MD, Astra Microwave Products Limited), Mr. Smit Shah (President, Drone Federation of India)

The Big IDEA: Imagining a Digital Economy for All

Prof. Bhaskar Chakravorti, Dean of Global Business, The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Women in Leadership

Ms. Priya Sahgal (Moderator), Prof. Shilpa Bhupathiraju (Harvard T.H. Chan. School of Public Health), Prof. Maya Tudor (Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford), Deputy Marcela Guerra Castillo (Member of Chamber of Deputies, Mexico), Amb. Bhaswati Mukherjee (Former Ambassador of India to the Netherlands), Prof. Jenny George (Dean, Melbourne Business School

Anticipatory Policy Making

Prof. Alexander Evans OBE FRHistS, Associate Dean, School of Public Policy, LSE

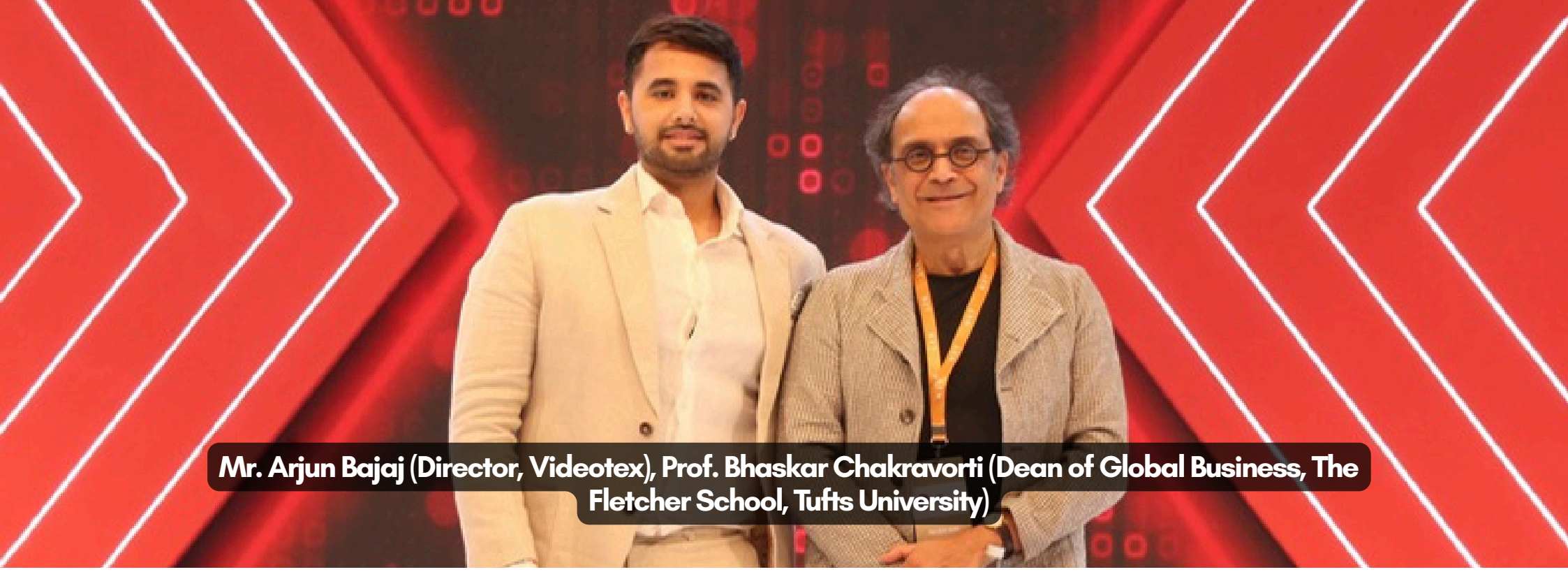
The New World Order of Sustainability

Ms. Devika Diwan (Moderator), Prof. Xufeng Zhu (Dean, School of Public Policy & Management, Tsinghua University), Prof. Arvind Mahajan (Regents Professor, Texas A&M University)

Keynote Address

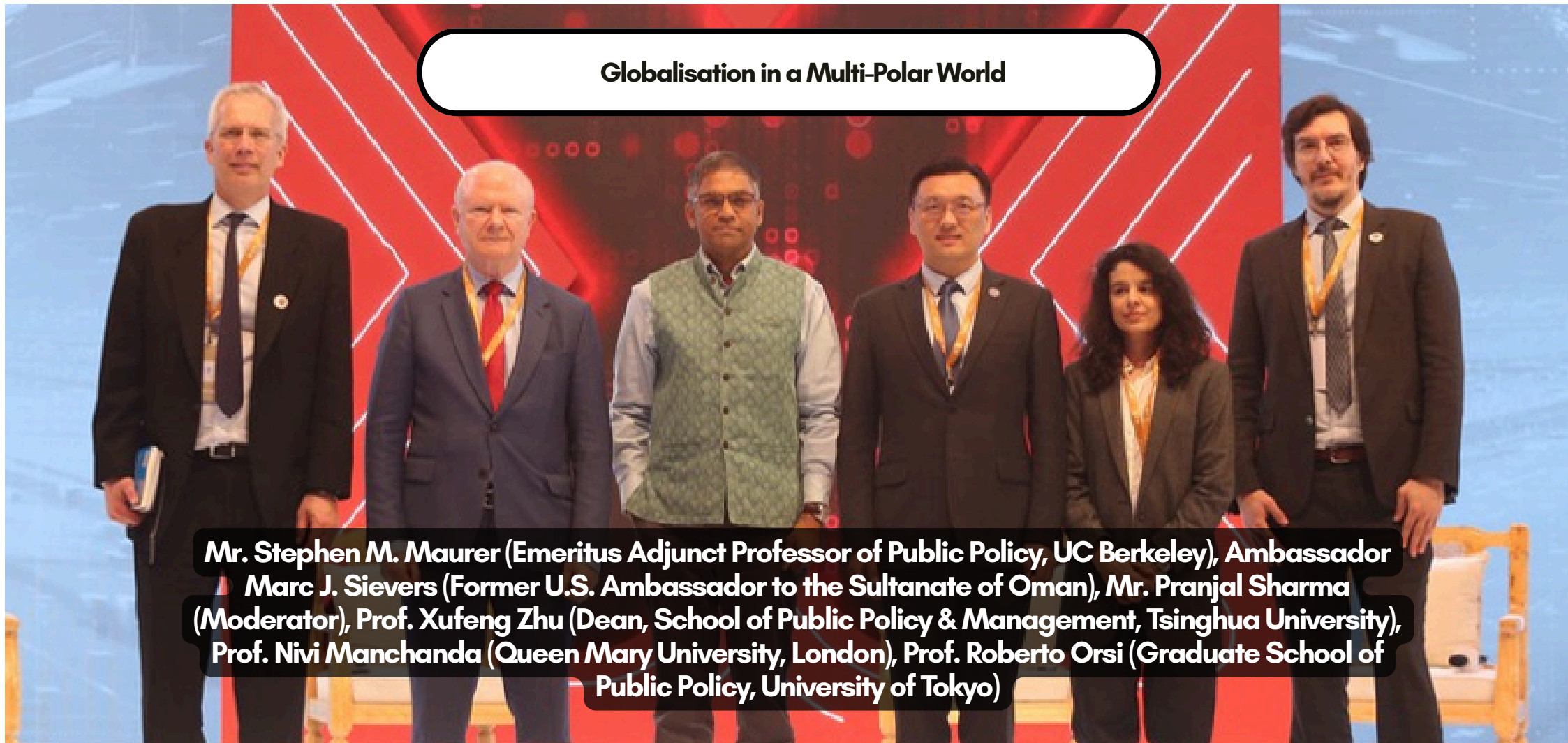
Prof. M. Srinivas, Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

The Future of Soft Tech & Hard Tech



Mr. Arjun Bajaj (Director, Videotex), Prof. Bhaskar Chakravorti (Dean of Global Business, The Fletcher School, Tufts University)

Globalisation in a Multi-Polar World



Mr. Stephen M. Maurer (Emeritus Adjunct Professor of Public Policy, UC Berkeley), Ambassador Marc J. Sievers (Former U.S. Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman), Mr. Pranjal Sharma (Moderator), Prof. Xufeng Zhu (Dean, School of Public Policy & Management, Tsinghua University), Prof. Nivi Manchanda (Queen Mary University, London), Prof. Roberto Orsi (Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo)



The industrial immersion program took the 65 fellows to Piccadily Distilleries in Indri, Haryana, the home of the award-winning Indri single malt whisky. The cohort toured the facility to examine the full whisky-making process, from distillation to aging, and analyzed how the distillery acts as a major regional economic driver.

The visit showcased a masterclass in global premiumization, demonstrating how the blending of local ingredients with international standards has transformed a regional commodity into a globally celebrated luxury icon.





NXT FELLOWSHIP

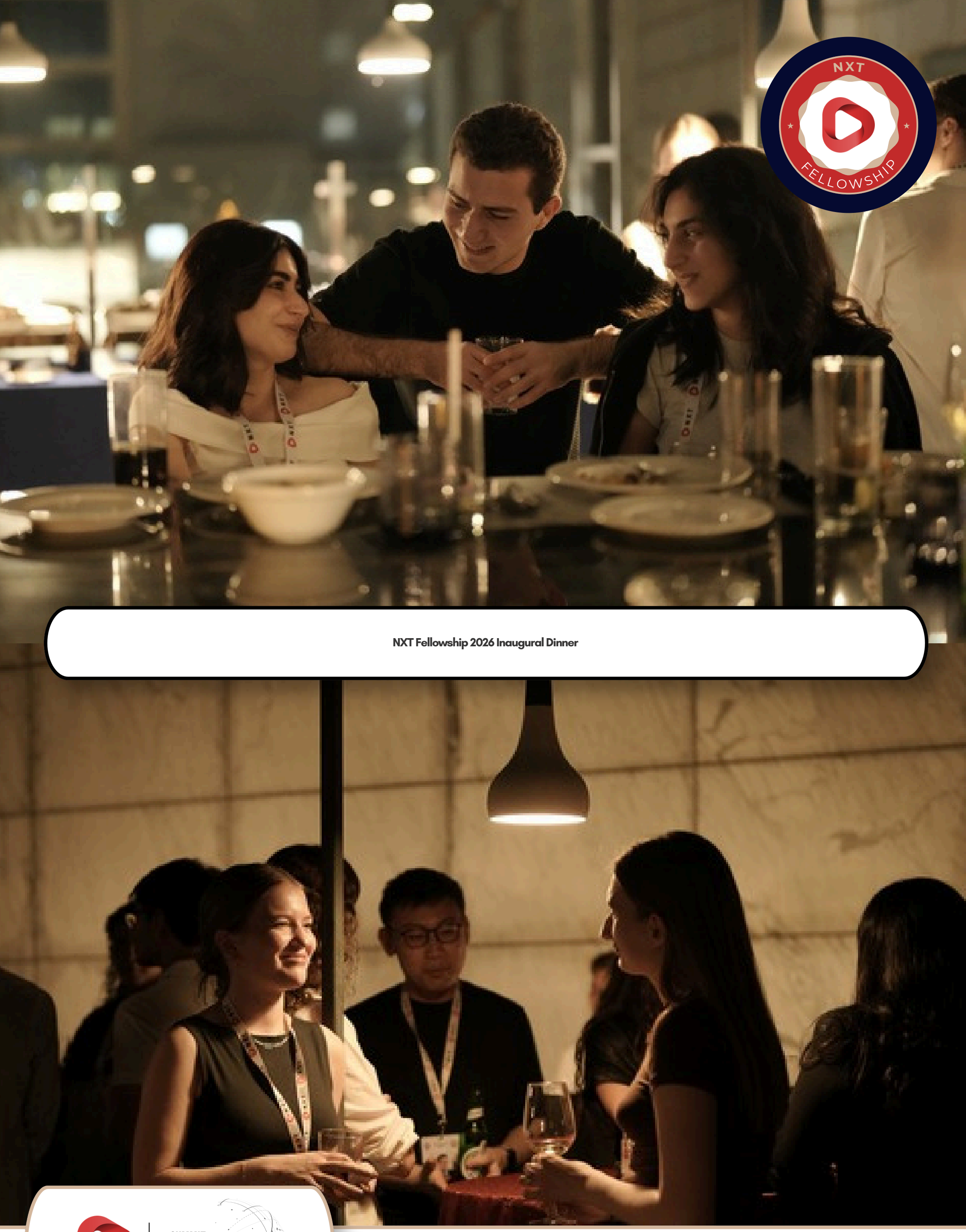
The manufacturing excursion continued at Videotex in Greater Noida, an Indian electronic manufacturing giant and ODM/OEM partner for leading global brands. Capable of producing over 3.2 million TV units annually, the facility offered the fellows a firsthand look at the precision of large-scale electronics manufacturing.

By observing the active assembly line and participating in rigorous quality control measures like a television drop test, the cohort gained direct insight into the advanced technology and ambition defining modern Indian industrial production.





NXT FELLOWSHIP



NXT FELLOWSHIP

NXT Fellowship 2026 Inaugural Dinner



NXT Fellows at the iconic Neemrana Fort Palace in Rajasthan







At Neemrana Fort Palace, the fellowship's cultural exploration came to life through a specially curated Bharat Bazaar designed to introduce the global minds to the living grit of Indian craftsmanship. Guided by cultural experts, the cohort engaged in interactive sessions that included the traditional art of Pagdi tying, Kannauj Ittar perfume blending, hand-block printing, and custom tea curation sourced from Assam and South India.

Accompanied by traditional evening folk performances, this hands-on heritage experience provided the global scholars with a visceral connection to the civilisational identity that underpins India's modern evolution.





NXT FELLOWSHIP

NXT Fellows attend a session on Indian history with Author & Academic Hindol Sen Gupta at Neemrana Fort Palance.

NXT Fellows at a traditional Rajasthani folk cultural performance at Neemrana Fort Palance, featuring the historic *Ghoomar* dance tradition.



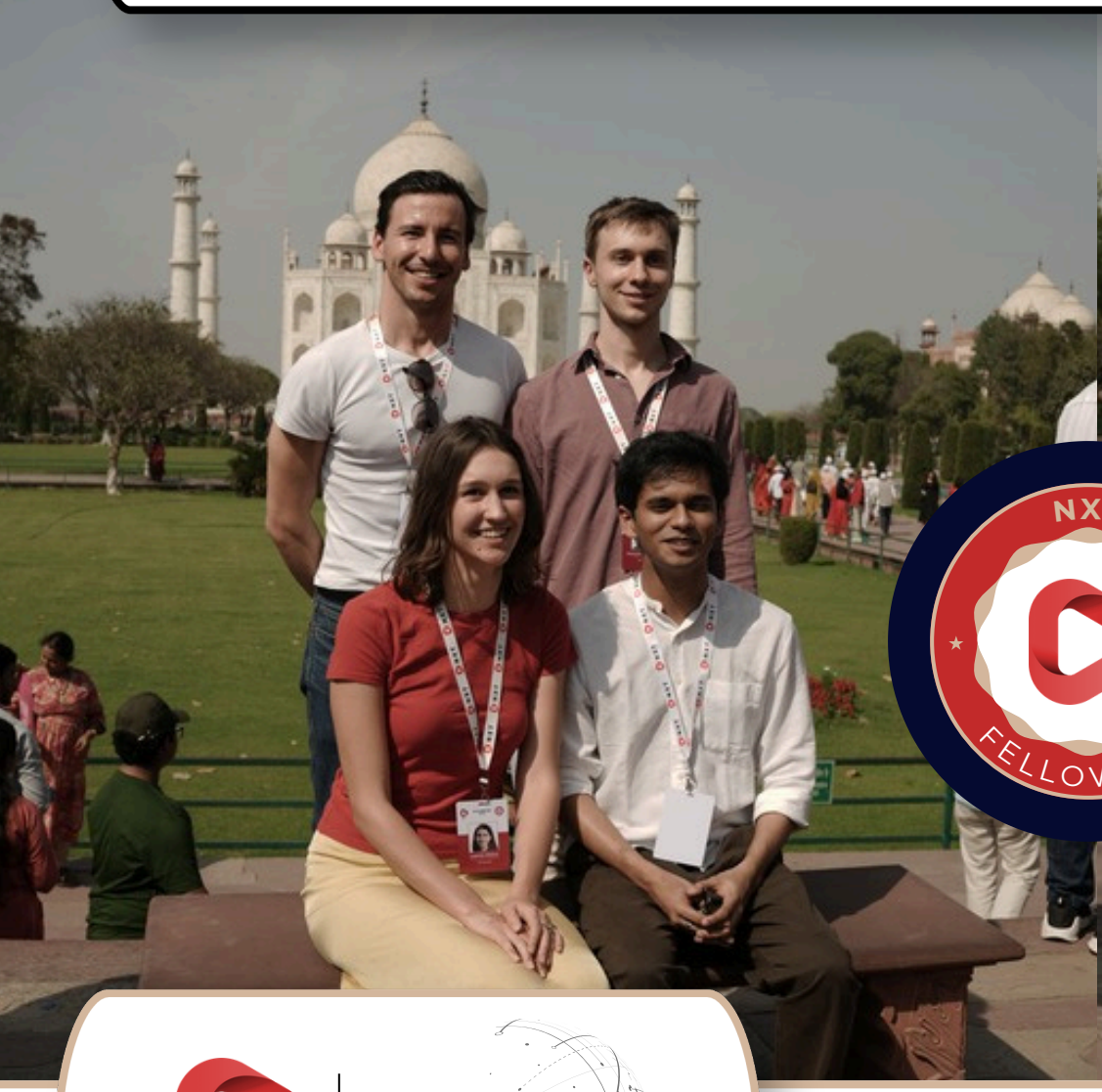
NXT Fellows join the folk dancers.





The cultural immersion journey reached its culmination with a dedicated visit to the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra. This final excursion offered the 65 global scholars a quiet moment of reflection amidst the architectural grandeur of one of the world's most celebrated wonders.

By experiencing the monument firsthand alongside the regional heritage arrays of the program, the international cohort moved entirely past the standard tourist lens, returning home with a concrete, personal connection to India's timeless architectural legacy and historical continuity.





NXT FELLOWSHIP

The academic and strategic intensity of the itinerary was balanced by immersive wellness sessions led by LifeYoga, anchoring the fellows in the core principles of Indic discipline. At sunrise on the lawns of the Hyatt Regency Manesar, Dr. Tanu and Ms. Pragya Singh guided the cohort through a grounding Hatha Yoga session to introduce them to the physical focus that has anchored Indian thought for millennia.

The spiritual restoration continued the following morning at Saat Bagh in Neemrana, where a specialized sound bath and breathing session used the resonant frequencies of singing bowls and gongs to provide a mental reset for the 65 scholars ahead of their high-level policy debates.



NXT Fellows unwind at a dinner at Covah the Cavern in Gurugram.







NXT Fellows at a live band performance at the Piano Man Jazz Club.





Wealth in the modern world is trade, free trade in particular.

Prof. Stephen M. Maurer
Emeritus Adjunct Professor of Public Policy, UC Berkeley

AI can make a decision, but only a person can answer for it.

Prof. Jenny George
Dean, Melbourne Business School

Prof. Bhaskar Chakravorti
Dean of Global Business, The Fletcher School, Tufts University

If we were to focus on AI for purpose, that could make a difference.

India now has the opportunity to rise.

Prof. Xufeng Zhu
Dean, School of Public Policy & Management, Tsinghua University

NXT

Prof. Maya Tudor
Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford

The single most untapped structural impediment is getting women to work.

Prof. Shilpa Bhupathiraju
Harvard T.H. Chan. School of Public Health

When institutions invest in inclusivity, they are investing in success.

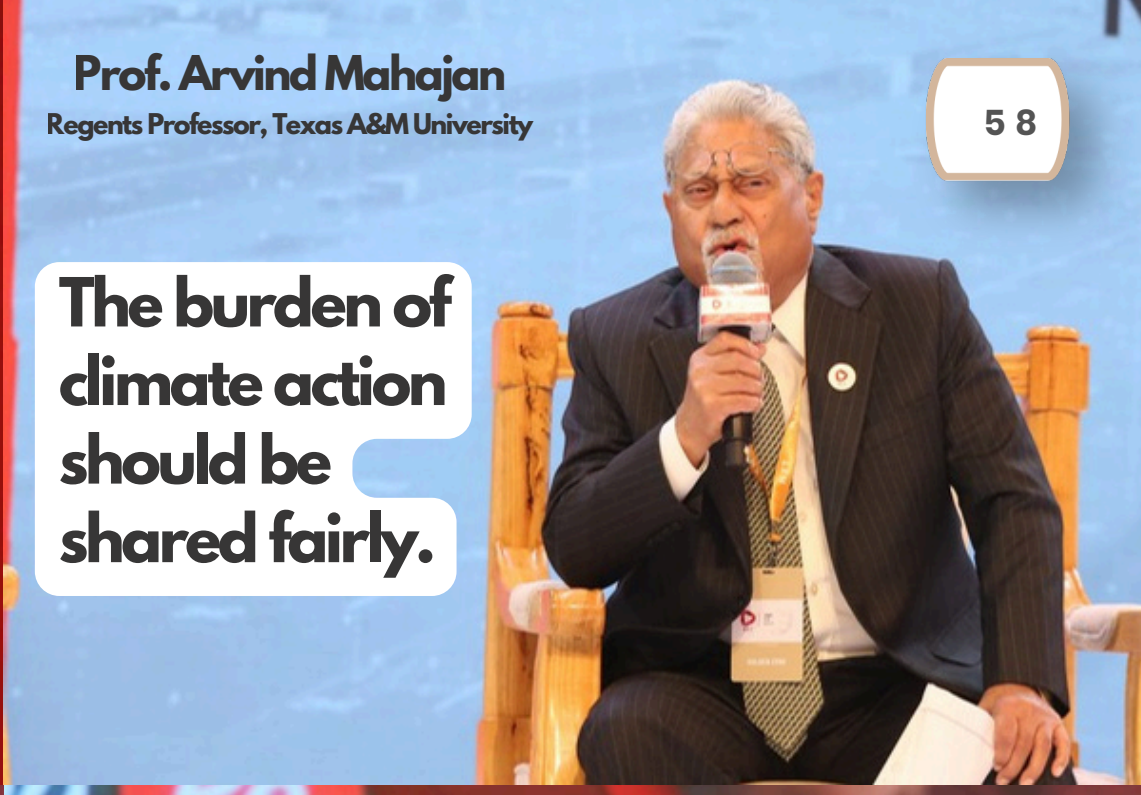
Amazing summit dedicated to thinking about now & next.

Prof. Alexander Evans OBE
Associate Dean, School of Public Policy, LSE

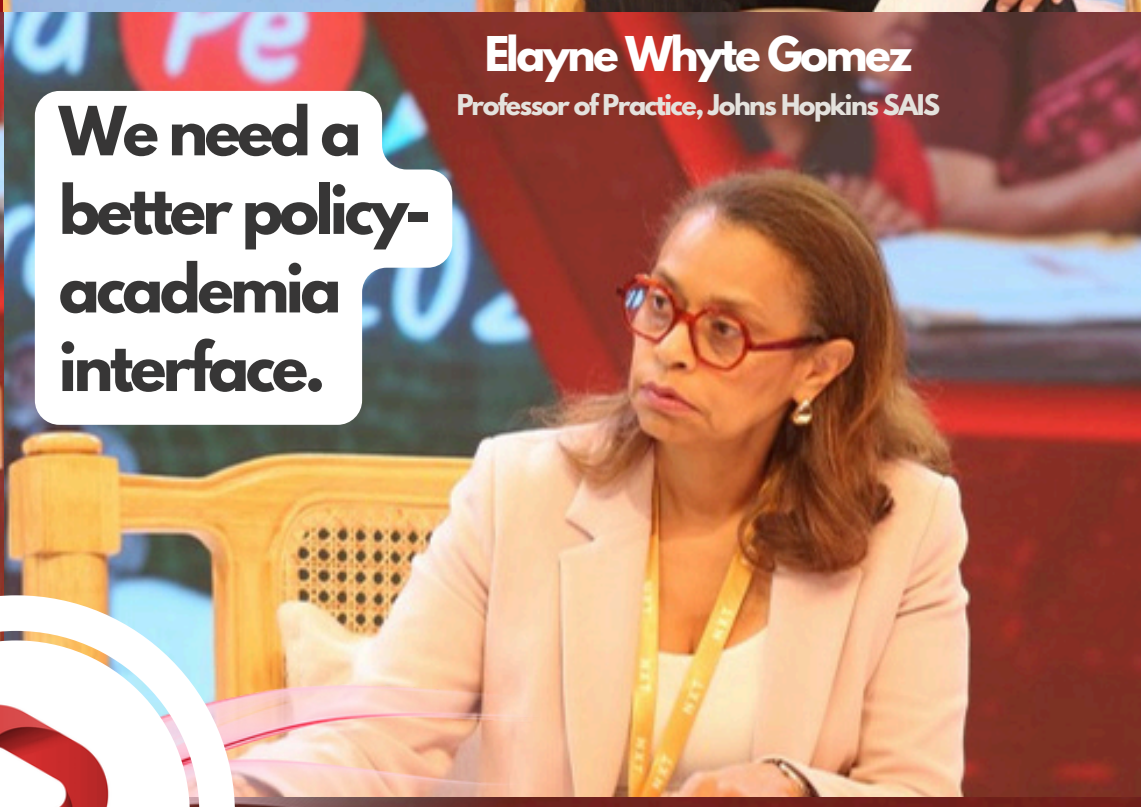
Prof. Omar Besbes
Director, AI in Business Initiative, Columbia Business School

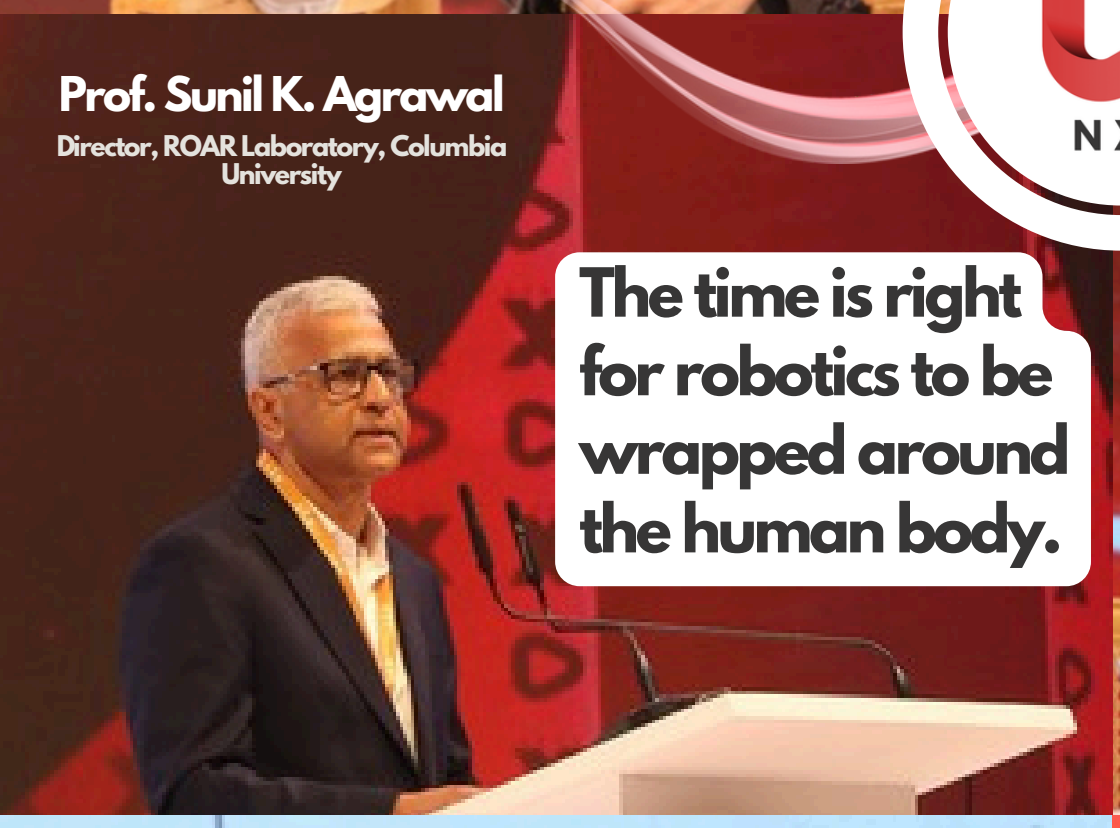
The next layer of digital governance will be about AI agents.


India is known for its initiative and ingenuity in proposing new ideas.
Prof. Georgy Toloraya
Professor, Russian Academy of Sciences


Prof. Arvind Mahajan
Regents Professor, Texas A&M University
58
The burden of climate action should be shared fairly.


Prof. Nivi Manchanda
Queen Mary University, London
Retreating to a state-centred, non-globalized world is not possible.


Elayne Whyte Gomez
Professor of Practice, Johns Hopkins SAIS
We need a better policy-academia interface.


Prof. Sunil K. Agrawal
Director, ROAR Laboratory, Columbia University
The time is right for robotics to be wrapped around the human body.


Prof. Roberto Orsi
Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo
Need enlightened leaders who can see opportunities of enhanced multilateralism.


Prof. Hansong Li
School of International Service, American University
It is inevitable that we are in this AI moment.


Prof. Dr. C. Raj Kumar
Founding Vice Chancellor, O.P Jindal Global University
Invest in the ideas that sustain global institutions.

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