



100th SKOCH Summit

29th March 2025
India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

NAVIGATING NEW FRONTIERS IN ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

In an age of rapid technological change, geopolitical shifts, and escalating demands for equity and sustainability, the nexus of economy and law stands as a critical battleground for shaping the future. The Mega Conference on Economy and Law, scheduled for 29th March 2025, is designed to interrogate this intersection through a multidimensional lens—justice, innovation, governance, and global responsibility. By bringing together policymakers, legal scholars, industry leaders, activists, and sustainability experts, this event will confront the challenges and opportunities defining our era. Under the theme “Navigating New Frontiers in Economic Justice and Legal Frameworks,” we aim to rethink how economic systems and legal structures can either perpetuate inequities or pave the way for a more inclusive, resilient world.

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India's regulatory framework has long been characterized by excessive compliance, outdated colonial-era laws, and a political reluctance to dismantle inefficient regulations. Overzealous regulation often benefits lower-level bureaucracy more than businesses or citizens, leading to economic distortions where small firms are romanticized while large firms face disproportionate scrutiny.

The Economic Survey 2024 highlights the urgency of deregulation, emphasizing that India's projected sub-7% GDP growth is insufficient to meet its economic aspirations. Case studies from Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh demonstrate how targeted deregulation has improved the ease of doing business. However, reforms must go beyond surface-level changes—India needs a structural shift in regulatory design, eliminating litigation-prone provisions, reducing compliance costs, and creating a predictable, business-friendly environment.

This panel discussion will explore key aspects of regulatory reform, including the problem of path dependence, the role of state-level deregulation, and the impact of excessive compliance on economic growth. The discussion will also assess the feasibility of the newly announced High-Level Committee on regulatory reform and whether a one-year review period is sufficient.

A major focus will be on institutionalizing pre-screening mechanisms to prevent business-stifling regulations from entering the system in the first place. Additionally, the panel will debate how India can balance deregulation with necessary oversight, ensuring that labour rights, environmental standards, and consumer protections are not compromised. The session will conclude with policy recommendations, identifying priority sectors for reform and outlining a roadmap to sustain an 8%+ GDP growth trajectory.



Dr M Govinda Rao
Chairman, Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee



Mr Ajay Seth
Finance Secretary
Government of India



Ms Pranjul Bhandari
MD, Chief India Economist and
Asean Economist, HSBC &
Adviser, 16th Finance Commission



Dr M Ramachandran
Distinguished Fellow, SKOCH
Development Foundation and
Former Secretary, Gol



Dr N C Saxena
Distinguished Fellow, SKOCH
Development Foundation and
Former Secretary, Gol



Dr Deepak Misra
Director and Chief Executive,
ICRIER



Dr V N Alok
Professor, Indian Institute of
Public Administration (IIPA)



Dr Deepak B Phatak
Director, SKOCH Development
Foundation and Chairman,
Board of Governors, IIT Indore



Dr Ram Singh
Director
Delhi School of Economics



Dr Hindol Sengupta
Historian & Professor
O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)

0900-1430

0900 - 0920	Arrival & Registration
0920 - 0945	Breakfast, Conversation and Pictures with Mr Sameer Kochhar , Chairman, SKOCH Group
0945 - 1005	ASSEMBLY & NATIONAL ANTHEM
1005 - 1010	WELCOME: Dr Gursharan Dhanjal , Vice-chairman, SKOCH Group
1010 - 1020	INTRODUCTION - THE STORY THUS FAR: Dr Deepak B Phatak , Director, SDF and Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Indore
1020 - 1035	OPENING REMARKS: Mr Sameer Kochhar , Chairman, SKOCH Group
1035 - 1050	INAUGRAL KEYNOTE: Mr Ajay Seth , Finance Secretary, Government of India
1050 - 1115	RESERVED
1115 - 1130	CLIMBING MOUNT UPSC: Chat between Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav , Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance and Mr Rohan Kochhar , Founder, SKOCH Law Offices
1130 - 1200	RESERVED
1200 - 1215	UNEQUAL ECONOMIC GROWTH OF INDIAN STATES 1960-2024: Dr N C Saxena , Distinguished Fellow, SKOCH Development Foundation and Former Secretary, Government of India
1215 - 1230	STATE OF DIGITAL ECONOMY: Dr Deepak Misra , Director and Chief Executive, ICRIER
1230 - 1330	An Agenda for Reforms
	CHAIR: Dr M Ramachandran , Distinguished Fellow, SKOCH Development Foundation and Former Secretary, Gol
	Dr M Govinda Rao , Chairman, Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee, and Former Director, NIPFP
	Ms Pranjul Bhandari , Managing Director, Chief India Economist and Asean Economist, HSBC & Adviser, 16 th Finance Commission
	Dr Ram Singh , Director, Delhi School of Economics
	Dr V N Alok , Professor, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)
	Dr Hindol Sengupta , Historian & Professor, O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)
	Discussion
	Closing remarks of the Chair
1330 - 1430	Lunch curated by Mr Sameer Kochhar in Honour of the Awardees



Mr Sameer Kochhar
Chairman
SKOCH Group



Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav
Addl Secretary, Department of
Expenditure, Ministry of Finance



Mr Rohan Kochhar
Founder
SKOCH Law Offices

For more details visit: summit.skoch.in

SIZING & REGULATING DIGITAL ECONOMY

India's digital economy is growing at a breakneck pace—with projections of reaching a multi-trillion dollar contribution to GDP by 2030—yet its rapid expansion brings with it significant challenges in both accurately measuring its scale and in crafting regulatory frameworks that foster innovation while protecting consumer interests. The challenge is twofold. First, traditional metrics and global indices often fail to capture India's unique digital landscape where the aggregate scale (e.g., total number of internet users, volume of digital transactions, and network effects) contrasts sharply with per capita measures of digital engagement. Second, regulatory frameworks designed elsewhere—such as those reflected in the EU's GDPR—do not always translate well into India's socio-economic and federal context.

Recent policy debates underscore that the digital economy's size is not merely about connectivity numbers or transaction volumes. It also involves capturing the broader economic impact, digital inclusion (especially among MSMEs and marginalized groups), and the qualitative benefits of innovation. Key reports and discussion papers highlight that while India may rank highly when measured at an aggregate level, the experience of the individual user remains uneven due to digital divides across rural–urban lines, gender gaps, and varying levels of digital literacy.

On the regulatory side, India's experience with the GST Council offers a promising example of successful center–state co-regulation. The GST Council's inclusive model—where federal and state governments work collaboratively to harmonize taxation policies—illustrates that well-designed, co-regulatory spaces can yield robust, implementable policy outcomes. However, when it comes to digital regulation, such as the enforcement of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act and the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference (TCCP) Regulations, the challenge remains to balance stringent consumer protection with the



Dr Deepak B Phatak
Director, SKOCH Development
Foundation and Chairman,
Board of Governors, IIT Indore



Dr M Ramachandran
Director, SKOCH Development
Foundation and
Former Secretary, Gol



Mr Vivek Aggarwal*
Additional Secretary,
Department of Revenue,
Ministry of Finance



Dr Suranjali Tandon
Associate Professor
NIPFP



Mr Sameer Kochhar
Chairman
SKOCH Group



Mr Anil Bhardawaj
Secretary General
FISME



Dr Jaijit Bhattacharya
Founder & President, Centre for
Digital Economy Policy Research



Mr Jaspreet Singh
Clients and Markets Leader -
Advisory Services
Grant Thornton Bharat LLP



Dr Gursharan Dhanjal
Vice Chairman
SKOCH Group



Mr Rohan Kochhar
Founder
SKOCH Law Offices

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need for innovation and cost-effective compliance, particularly for smaller businesses and startups.

The current regulatory landscape is marked by debates on issues like:

- How to effectively measure the size of Indian Digital Economy? Is measuring the impact of Digital India a better approach?
- How to balance regulation uniformity, ease of doing business and federalism in a Digital Economy? Is GST Council model a good way forward?
- How best to ensure data protection without imposing burdens that may stifle entrepreneurial growth.
- Whether a one-size-fits-all approach is suitable given the diverse range of digital services—from e-commerce and fintech to digital health and local retail.
- The importance of regulatory impact assessments to gauge the economic costs and benefits of these policies.

In this context, there is growing advocacy for the creation of more inclusive and co-regulatory spaces. Such platforms could enable a broader spectrum of voices—policy experts, consumer rights groups, industry leaders, and citizens—to contribute to a more nuanced regulatory framework that is adaptive to India’s evolving digital economy.

1600 - 1610	Arrival & Registration
1610 - 1630	Tea, Conversation and Pictures with Mr Sameer Kochhar , Chairman, SKOCH Group
1630 - 1640	ASSEMBLY & NATIONAL ANTHEM
1640 - 1650	OPENING REMARKS: Mr Sameer Kochhar , Chairman, SKOCH Group
1650 - 1705	STATE OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE: Dr M Ramachandran , Distinguished Fellow, SKOCH Development Foundation and Former Secretary, Government of India
1705 - 1745	AWARDS
1745 - 1800	CHAT BETWEEN Mr Vivek Aggarwal* , Additional Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance and Dr Gursharan Dhanjal , Vice-chairman, SKOCH Group
1800 - 1830	AWARDS
1830 - 1945	SIZING & REGULATING DIGITAL ECONOMY
	CHAIR: Dr Deepak B Phatak , Director, SKOCH Development Foundation and Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Indore
	Dr Jaijit Bhattacharya , Founder & President, Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research
	Dr Suranjali Tandon , Associate Professor, NIPFP
	Mr Anil Bhardawaj , Secretary General, FISME
	Mr Jaspreet Singh , Clients and Markets Leader - Advisory Services, Grant Thornton Bharat LLP
	Mr Rohan Kochhar , Founder, SKOCH Law Offices
	DISCUSSION
	Remarks of the Chair

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VALEDICTORY SESSION AND AWARDS



Mr Arjun R Meghwal*
Hon'ble Minister of State (IC)
Ministry of Law & Justice



Ms Pranjul Bhandari
Managing Director, Chief India
Economist and Asean Economist, HSBC
& Adviser, 16th Finance Commission



Dr Ram Singh
Director
Delhi School of Economics



Dr V N Alok
Professor, Indian Institute of
Public Administration (IIPA)



Dr Hindol Sengupta
Historian and Professor
O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)

1945 - 2000 Valedictory Session and Awards

Acceptance by **Ms Pranjul Bhandari**, Managing Director, Chief India Economist and Asean Economist, HSBC & Adviser, 16th Finance Commission

Acceptance by **Dr Ram Singh**, Director, Delhi School of Economics

Acceptance by **Dr V N Alok**, Professor, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)

Acceptance by **Dr Hindol Sengupta**, Historian & Professor, O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)

2000 - 2015 Valedictory Address: **Mr Arjun R Meghwal***, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC), Ministry of Law & Justice

2015 -
Midnight Dinner curated by **Mr Sameer Kochhar** in Honour of the Awardees

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SKOCH AWARD