

2026

Public
Policy
Dialogues

Theme : Food Systems



ISB

Bharti Institute
of Public Policy

Public Policy Dialogues

Theme: Food Systems



Date: March 20 - 22, 2026

Venue: Indian School of Business, Hyderabad Campus

The Bharti Institute of Public Policy takes great pleasure in inviting you to its annual flagship symposium, 'Public Policy Dialogues', being held at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad Campus from March 20–22, 2026. This year, the conference pivots from traditional, siloed policy discussions to address the Food System as a complex, adaptive network.

We aim to bring together academics and practitioners from public and private sectors, educational institutions, think tanks, and civil society organisations to bridge the gap between research and practice.

Why Food Systems?

India's food system—the intricate network that feeds 1.4 billion people—is a remarkable story of achievement, yet it stands today at a critical inflection point. For decades, our approach has been characterised by linear, siloed policy interventions that prioritised production volume and immediate food security. This strategy was not without success, ensuring high and sustained food production and significantly reducing chronic malnutrition and seasonal hunger through vital levers like the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Supplementary Nutrition Programmes.

However, a retrospective social audit reveals a massive and growing set of unintended consequences. The current policy architecture, while necessary in the past, now imposes staggering financial costs, creates deep environmental liabilities, and faces existential threats from a changing climate. The challenge is clear: we can no longer afford to treat production, distribution, and consumption as separate entities. This national dialogue is founded on the imperative to move beyond the linear "farm to plate" narrative and embrace the reality that the food system is an adaptive, complex organism where every action creates predictable shifts and unpredictable surprises.



A Platform for Collaboration

To be conducted as an engaging in-person conference, this event facilitates high-stakes interactions between policy researchers and practitioners. Through panel discussions, innovation sandboxes, and research poster showcases, we will move beyond 'linear thinking' to find holistic solutions for:



Food Safety



Sustainable Livelihoods



Nutrition Security



Climate Resilience



Equitable Markets across India's food systems

We invite you to attend this three-day dialogue that will bring together India's leading experts to collectively define a new, integrated approach, one that looks at the entire system simultaneously and understands that optimising only one part often means compromising the whole.



Conference Design



Research Poster Showcase

The Research Poster Showcase serves as a premier platform for those whose work dives deep into the complexities of adaptive food systems. By treating the food system as a complex, interconnected network of 1.4 billion people, this showcase seeks to align the levers of Policy, Markets, and Culture against the critical foundations of Technology, Gender, Climate, and Geopolitics. Selected authors will receive exclusive professional design assistance and technical feedback from the Bharti Institute of Public Policy research team to ensure these insights achieve maximum impact during the dialogues.

Innovation Sandbox

The Innovation Sandbox Showcase serves as an exclusive platform for highlighting transformative solutions to the complexities of modern food systems. The top ten selected entries will receive dedicated pitch refinement and moderation support from the BIPP research team, culminating in a prestigious award ceremony during the event.

Start Up Showcase

The Startup Showcase is a curated platform where (both for-profit and not-for-profit) ventures present innovations that can strengthen food systems—across production, distribution, consumption, nutrition, and resilience. Each venture shares the problem it addresses, how the solution works, evidence of impact, and what is needed to pilot, adopt, or scale—such as partnerships, funding, data access, or policy enablement. Showcase your food-systems innovations across four transformation axes:

- Sarkaar (Policy & Governance)
- Bazaar (Markets & Business Models)
- Samaaj (Communities & Social Change)
- Sanchar (Media, Data & Narratives)

Panel Discussions

These panels will feature leading experts addressing the complex, adaptive challenges within modern food systems. Panellists will bring their diverse experiences to bear on the topic, aligning the levers of Policy, Markets, and Culture to provide a multi-dimensional perspective. Specifically, these sessions are designed to provide the audience with a state-of-the-art understanding of food system interdependencies—moving beyond linear thinking to frame the broad contours of systemic issues through moderated, informed conversation.

Roundtable Discussions

Roundtables are most suited to facilitate conversations across the complex divides of modern food systems—bridging different disciplines and connecting researchers with practitioners—and are therefore designed as informed dialogues rather than sequential presentations. The main thrust is to generate a lively debate that moves beyond linear thinking, allowing participants to discuss tough questions, discover partners, review systemic developments, and propose novel ideas for aligning policy, markets, and culture. To ensure these insights drive lasting impact, the conversations of each roundtable will be transcribed, and a report will be produced for further publication.



Submission Details



The Public Policy Dialogues 2026 invites proposals under distinct categories—Research Poster Showcase, Innovation Sandbox, Start Up Showcase, Roundtable Discussions, and Panel Discussions—to address the complex, adaptive and deeply interconnected nature of modern food systems.

Details are as follows:



Panel Discussions

Expert Panels provide a one-hour platform to address critical issues in public policy theory and practice regarding India's food systems. Proposals should specify a moderator and 3–4 panellists representing a mix of academics and practitioners. Each submission must include a summary description of the panel (<500 words) along with the name, designation, affiliation, short biography, and email address of each participant. These sessions are designed to move beyond linear thinking and bridge the gap between policy research and field application.



Roundtable Discussions

We invite proposals for 90-minute roundtable discussions on pressing policy issues within the food system nexus to facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration. The proposal must include a concept note of less than 1000 words, a designated Chair, and the names and affiliations of at least six participants. Participation is limited to 15 individuals drawn from different disciplines and sectors to ensure an engaging in-person dialogue. The Roundtable Chair will have final discretion on selecting the additional participants from interested conference attendees.



Research Poster Showcase

We invite researchers and scholars to contribute to the Research Poster Showcase by submitting a research prologue exploring the complexities of adaptive food systems.

All abstracts must be accompanied by a video submission; please refer to our [guidelines](#) and [reference videos](#). Selected authors will benefit from professional design assistance and technical feedback from the Bharti Institute of Public Policy, with shortlisted participants invited to deliver a 15-minute presentation of their work.



Innovation Sandbox

Visionary practitioners and innovators are invited to submit pitches for the Innovation Sandbox, highlighting transformative solutions such as policy pilots, data-enabled technology, or behavioral interventions. Submissions must include a 400-word concept note along with a video submission; please refer to our [guidelines](#) and [reference videos](#).

The top ten selected entries will receive dedicated pitch refinement and moderation support from the BIPP research team.



Start up showcase

The showcase is designed for dialogue, not just pitching. Founders engage with policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and industry leaders to refine solutions, identify real-world pathways, and align innovations with public priorities. Participating startups may bring solutions in technology, data, business models, communications/media, citizen action, or civil society practice.

Submit a 500-word write-up detailing your startup, the innovation, and its contribution to food-systems outcomes. Selected startups will be featured and recognised at the event.

Event Tracks & Submission Details



Research Poster Showcase

Present your work at the intersection of Policy, Markets, and Culture. Includes design assistance for selected authors. Submit your prologue [here](#)



Innovation Sandbox Ideas

Pitch your tech, data, or governance solutions. Top 10 entries receive mentorship and awards. Submit your pitch [here](#)



Panel Discussion Proposals

Lead a deep-dive discussion on the complexities of the global and Indian food matrix. Submit your proposal [here](#)



Roundtable Proposals

Convene a high-level debate on the invisible costs of our food systems. Conversations will be transcribed for publication. Submit your proposal [here](#)



Start Up Showcase

Submit a 500-word write-up detailing your startup, the innovation, and its contribution to food-systems outcomes. Selected startups will be featured and recognised at the event. Submit your proposal [here](#)

Submission Deadline

March 9, 2026

Register for the event below

<https://forms.isb.edu/PublicPolicyDialogues/Admin/login.aspx>

Registration Fees:

Professionals - INR 1000

Students – INR 500 (Valid ID Card Mandatory)

In case you have an idea and unsure whether it fits our description,
please submit an inquiry at ppd_2026@isb.edu

CONFERENCE CHAIR

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Executive Director

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